

The SPORTS

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55p

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Daily Echo
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**MURRAY OUT TO EXORCISE
THE GHOST OF FRED PERRY
WIMBLEDON P18 & 19**



EX-SAINT WATSON: TIME FOR RAMIREZ TO LIVE UP TO £12M FEE

Simon Carter

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SPORTS EDITOR

FORMER Saints striker Gordon Watson has called on club record signing Gaston Ramirez to step up his game next season.

The Uruguayan ended his debut season in English football with Saints with the jury still out on the midfield playmaker who cost Saints £12m.

Watson, right, is adamant that Mauricio Pochettino should not play both Ramirez and skipper Adam Lallana in the same team.

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STEP ON THE GAS

RECORD
SIGNING:
Gaston
Ramirez, top.

PIETERSEN'S BACK IN AN ENGLAND SQUAD WITH OPTIONS: PAGE 40

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SAINTS' NEW SEASON

**What the
fixtures hold
in the
coming
Premier
campaign
See
pages 2-3**

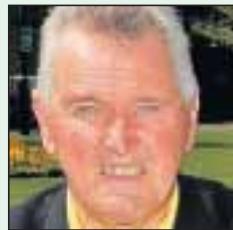


NON-LEAGUE



All the latest news
with Wendy Gee
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TERRY PAINES



Saints legend gives
his views
– page 7

CRICKET



All the latest from the
SEPL
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GOLF



Rose blossoms –
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Saints Spotlight

Step on the Gas

● From front page

And he admits he would choose the home-grown Lallana, pictured below, over the club's expensive import if he had to pick just one of them to start.

"Ramirez has got to be stronger," said Watson.

"For £12m, I expected a lot more from Ramirez."

"There's definitely more there, because he's got great technique and balance."

Watson added: "I can't see Ramirez and Adam playing in the same side."

"They are too similar."

"Their share the same weaknesses – neither of them are tacklers and will win you the ball back."

"You're not going to find any club to pay £12m for Adam Lallana are you?"



"But I would prefer Adam in my side than Ramirez."

Lallana and Ramirez started less than a third of Saints' Premier League games last season – 12 out of 38.

Of those, Saints won just three – at QPR, at home to Newcastle and home to Liverpool.

Pochettino only started with Lallana and Ramirez in the same team on four occasions.

For his part, Ramirez – currently on Confederations Cup duty – has said he is happy to stay at Saints.

But the Italian media has carried reports that several clubs could be interested in bringing the 22-year-old back to Serie A.

Watson cannot believe any club would be willing to pay Saints what chairman Nicola Cortese paid Bologna for the player last summer.

"I know there has been talk of Italian clubs interested in him, but you're not going to find anyone to pay £12m for him," Watson declared.

"If you do, I'll show you someone who hasn't got a clue."

FIXTURES FIRE UP



Date KO v Opponent Comp Res

August 2013

Sat 17	15:00	A	WBA	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 24	15:00	H	Sunderland	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 31	15:00	A	Norwich City	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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September 2013

Sat 14	15:00	H	West Ham Utd	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 21	15:00	A	Liverpool	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 28	15:00	H	Crystal Palace	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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October 2013

Sat 5	15:00	H	Swansea City	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 19	15:00	A	Man Utd	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 26	15:00	H	Fulham	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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November 2013

Sat 2	15:00	A	Stoke City	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 9	15:00	H	Hull City	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 23	15:00	A	Arsenal	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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SAINTS

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES 2013-14



Date KO v Opponent Comp Res

Sat 30	15:00	A	Chelsea	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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December 2012

Tue 3	19:45	H	Aston Villa	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 7	15:00	H	Man City	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 14	15:00	A	Newcastle	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 21	15:00	H	Tottenham	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Thu 26	15:00	A	Cardiff City	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 28	15:00	A	Everton	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Daily Echo

Simon Carter

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SPORTS EDITOR

For the likes of Yeovil Town, who 16 years ago were playing in what is now the Conference South, the same level as Eastleigh, Gosport Borough and Havant & Waterlooville, and this week received their first ever Championship fixture list.

Sobering

Many might have seen Wigan's FA Cup win as something approaching a footballing miracle, but it does not come close to replicating Yeovil Town's story.

But not everyone can be a winner.

For every Yeovil or Bournemouth, there is a newly relegated club facing up to life in a lower division than a few months earlier.

Of course, that is a scenario Portsmouth fans have had to get



Date KO v Opponent Comp Res

Sat 22	15:00	A	West Ham Utd	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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March 2014

Sat 1	15:00	H	Liverpool	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 8	15:00	A	Crystal Palace	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 15	15:00	H	Norwich City	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------	-------	---	--------------	------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Sat 22	15:00	A	Tottenham	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 29	15:00	H	Newcastle	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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April 2014

Sat 5	15:00	A	Man City	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 12	15:00	H	Cardiff City	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 19	15:00	A	Aston Villa	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 26	15:00	H	Everton	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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February 2014

Sat 1	15:00	A	Fulham	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 8	15:00	H	Stoke City	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Tue 11	19:45	A	Hull City	PREM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Milk advert joke back in the 1980s.

And no doubt the League 2 fixture list was as sobering as many might have imagined.

For those supporters who got used to seeing Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal and Liverpool at Fratton Park, games against Fleetwood Town, Morecambe, Newport County and AFC Wimbledon will not be easy to bear. Pompey have been here before, however.

The fourth tier is not new ground for them.

The club had two seasons in the old Fourth Division, the second of which – in 1979/80 – saw them promoted.

Seven years later, under Alan Ball, Pompey were in the top flight.

It has been a horrendous few years for Saints' bitterest rivals, and there won't be many in the St Mary's faithful who will show them much sympathy.

Saints supporters would have laughed out loud on seeing Pompey's second game in the fourth tier away to Accrington Stanley, a club once the butt of a

revival

But that was the case with Saints in the same 2009/10 season, as they found themselves in the third tier with a minus 10 points deduction.

Four years ago, on seeing Saints demoted to League 1, I was convinced the club had hit rock bottom.

There was no way they could go any lower, and so it proved.

The same can be said for Pompey now.

Three relegations in four seasons has catapulted the club into the bottom tier, but their revival should start next season.

There is no way the club will go

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Saints Spotlight

HOPE IN ALL FANS



WELSH WONDERS: Cardiff celebrate joining arch rivals Swansea in the Premier League.

down again, into the non-league world.

All that, of course, is little concern for Saints fans who are again planning trips to Old Trafford, The Emirates, Anfield, Stamford Bridge and The Etihad.

While Pompey busy themselves with signing free transfers, it is Saints who are being regularly linked with multi million pound signings.

A few years ago the roles were reversed, and it was Pompey splashing the cash.

Saints won't go the same way as their rivals, though, that much is obvious.

No club will ever go the same way as Pompey again, surely?

Two clubs who have made the opposite journey in recent times, meanwhile, will play in the first ever Premier League south Wales derbies next season.

Swansea City and Cardiff City's games back in the 70s, 80s and early 90s were among the most violent in modern football times.

The atmosphere of pure hatred was all pervading when they met

amid the massive police presence in the rundown stadiums that were Swansea's Vetch Field and Cardiff's Ninian Park.

The surrounding terraced streets were often battlegrounds as the arrest count soared.

Back in 1987 I was living in Cardiff as a student and went along to the Swansea game at Ninian Park.

The crowd was only around 7,000 and most had come spoiling for a fight.

Feared

There was barbed wire on top of the fences at the away end stopping both sets of fans from attacking each other.

Bricks and other assorted debris were frequently lobbed over the perimeter wall into the away end by hooligans standing outside the ground.

This was south Wales football 26 years ago, presenting an ugly face to the world.

Moronic fans in decrepit stadia. You feared for the future, you really did.

And now look at it. Shiny new all seater grounds for both clubs, 20,000 crowds for both clubs.

Premier League football for both clubs.

I still can't believe it.

I looked at the fixtures last Wednesday, and there it was - two Swans v Cardiff derbies.

Jacks v Bluebirds.

I'd love to go to one, to see how football has changed in the last quarter of a century.

And it has changed, so much. Better players, better facilities, higher crowds.

Yes, higher prices are a cost that has to be paid by the fans.

But ask my cousins who are Swansea fans, what they prefer. The old days, 1987, bricks flying over a fence onto their heads, or now?

Ask one of my best mates from my student days, who is now a season ticket holder at Cardiff along with his two sons.

Ask him what he prefers, and whether the increased cost is one worth paying?

In fact, ask any Saints fan what they prefer.

Paying £20 to watch Wycombe or Hartlepool at St Mary's, or around £35 to watch Manchester United or Chelsea.

It's a no brainer.

So bring it on again.

The arrival of the fixtures should always be a great day, for it tells of unknown glories that could lie ahead.

For Saints, who knows? They might challenge for a European slot, and they might get it by beating Manchester United at St Mary's in their last game.

For Cherries, who knows? They could stay up, or even challenge for the play-offs.

For Pompey, who knows again? The last day game against Plymouth could see a promotion party for them.

Hope springs eternal, for us all - whoever we support.

And a new season's fixture list fires that hope.

The day it doesn't, is the day when we've fallen out of love with the beautiful game.



Sports Quiz

- Andy Carroll had a brief loan spell at which club while he was playing for Newcastle United?
- When was the last time a British & Irish Lions squad lost the first match in a Test series only to come back and win the series?
- Which German footballer has recently voiced a role in an animated film?
- Which golfer got his first win as a professional at the 1962 US Open?
- Who was the first team to score over 300 in an innings in the ICC Champions Trophy?
- How many England caps has new West Ham signing Andy Carroll won?
- How many Scottish players have been included in the British and Irish Lions' match-day squad of 23 for Saturday's first Test against Australia?
- Who is the leading run-scorer in the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy?
- What nationality is snooker player Neil Robertson?
- Who are the reigning NHL Stanley Cup champions?
- Australia hold the record for the biggest win in international football after claiming a 31-0 victory in 2001. Who did they beat?
- Who did Andy Murray defeat in last year's Olympic tennis final?
- Which Aviva Premiership side will Alex Corbisiero play for next season?
- Which Formula One team did Ross Brawn join after leaving Ferrari?
- Ricky Ponting spent a summer with which English county in 2004?
- Which Belgian club did Chelsea sign Kevin De Bruyne from?
- Which Major League Baseball team plays their home matches at Wrigley Field?
- What nationality is golfer Jason Day?
- British and Irish Lions forward Geoff Parling plays his club rugby for which side?
- Who was the last player other than Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer to win the French Open?

READ THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH COLUMN ON PAGE 6

Answers

1. Preston North End; 2. the firm Mancunian (for University); 3. Jack Nicklaus; 4. Michael Jordan; 5. Nine; 6. India; 7. Steve Shrikhar Dhawani (India); 8. Australian; 9. The Los Angeles Kings; 10. The New York Rangers; 11. The Atlanta Thrashers; 12. Roger Federer; 13. Northern Ireland; 14. Holden; 15. Someerset; 16. Geel; 17. Chicago Cubs; 18. Australia; 19. Lester; 20. Gaston Gaudio (2004).

Saints Spotlight

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"There was a 10-minute period where we were down to 14 men and we're not playing tiddlywinks. I've never seen someone sin-binned for that before. It was ridiculous. I was watching a game of rugby where you saw that kind of thing right the way through. That was nothing but embarrassing. Ten minutes for that? That was handbag stuff and it ruined a great, competitive game of footy" – Scotland head coach Scott Johnson is furious about the yellow card shown to second-row forward Jim Hamilton for a pushing offence, which helped South Africa recover from 17-6 down to beat his team 30-17.

"In terms of our evolution, this tour has been critical. Some of the young players have gained a huge amount of experience coming on this tour and we have developed new leaders" – England rugby union head coach Stuart Lancaster on his team's 2-0 Test series win against Argentina.

"It feels fantastic, absolutely amazing. I don't know if it takes pressure off, but it's a moment where you can look back and think childhood dreams have come true" – Hampshire golfer Justin Rose wins his first major, the US Open.



AMAZING FEELING: Justin Rose.

"You saw me look to the heavens with it being Father's Day – I was just trying to remember my dad" – Rose on his father Ken, a massive influence on his career who died from leukaemia in 2002.

"The kids normally do a good job of keeping me grounded. They couldn't care less about the big shiny trophy in the house – my son made a clay trophy for Fathers' Day and I told him that was the best trophy" – Rose again, putting his win into perspective.

"You're probably right, there is probably not a great deal of confidence there. We said at the start that you need to start the competition well in order to get your confidence up, so losing to England was a major cock-up" – Australia's ex-Hampshire batsman George Bailey reflects on the team's Champions Trophy failure.

"It wouldn't (interest me) unless they changed the rules. Whoever takes the job...why would they take it if you are not going to get your best players? It's like a boxer going into the ring with one arm tied behind his back" – Glenn Hoddle rules himself out of the running to be England Under-21 manager.

"There's no excuses, the first-half performance wasn't good enough and we got what we deserved" – British and Irish Lions coach Warren Gatland on his team's loss to the Brumbies.

CLUBS' GAIN IS



NEW SAINTS ARRIVAL: Dejan Lovren, right.

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SPORTS EDITOR

THE Premier League could be set to go even more continental next season, despite claims it is destroying the chances of the England team.

There was some soul searching recently as the England under-21s, including Saints right back Nathaniel Clyne, failed so dismally in the European Championships.

In addition, Roy Hodgson's first team are struggling to qualify for the World Cup.

Statistics compiled this summer revealed that more than a third of Premier League clubs failed to field even 30 per cent of English players last season.

Saints bucked that trend with the best stats in the top flight, with 52 per cent of the players they used last season being English.

In the *Sports Pink* last week, Saints legend Terry Paine described Premier League clubs' recruitment of big money overseas players as "reckless".

"The finest clubs in England are supposed to be developing young players ... but it seems it is easier than ever for managers to overlook them," he wrote.

Paine's voice is not a lone one, not by a long way.

In the *Southern Daily Echo* last week, another Dell legend – ex-boss Lawrie McMenemy – said the proliferation of overseas stars in the English game was a major reason for flopping at international level.

Despite all those words of concern, things are not exactly improving if the early days of the transfer market so far are anything to go by.

There have been 26 first team signings

Premier League ins and outs - summer 2013

ARSENAL

Out: Jordan Wynter (Bristol City, free)
Released: Andrey Arshavin, Samir Bihoutine, Reice Charles-Cook, Denilson, Craig Eastmond (Colchester, free), Sead Hajrovic, Conor Henderson, Jernade Meade, Nigel Oldfield Spence-Neita, Joshua Rees, Philip Roberts, James Shea, Sebastien Squillaci, Sanchez Watt

ASTON VILLA

In: Leandro Bacuna (FC Groningen, undisclosed), Jores Okore (Nordsjælland, undisclosed), Antonio Luna (Sevilla, Undisclosed), Nicklas Helenius (Aalborg, £2m), Aleksandar Tonev (Lech Poznan, undisclosed)

Released: Calum Barrett, Joshua Barton, Courtney Cameron, Daniel Devine, Richard Dunne, Eric Lichaj (Nottingham Forest, free), Andrew Marshall

CHELSEA

OUT: Amin Affane, Yossi Benayoun,

Abdul Deen-Conteh, Paulo Ferreira,

Hilario, Florent Malouda, Archange Nkumu, Ross Turnbull

EVERTON

Out: Jake Bidwell (Brentford, undisclosed)
Released: Johan Hammar, Thomas Hitzsperger, Sam Kelly, Jan Mucha, Phil Neville

HULL CITY

In: Mayor Figueroa (Wigan, Free), George Boyd (Peterborough, free)
Out: Andy Dawson (Scunthorpe, free)

FULHAM

In: Maarten Stekelenburg (Roma, undisclosed), Fernando Amorebieta (Athletic Bilbao, free), Derek Boateng (Dnipro, free)
Released: Chris Baird, Simon Davies, Mahamadou Diarra, Thomas Donegan, Corey Gameiro, Georgios Karagounis, James Musa, Richard Peniket, Mladen Petric, Mark Schwarzer, Alex Smith, Csaba Somogyi

LIVERPOOL

Out: Kolo Toure (Manchester City, free), Luis Alberto (Sevilla, £6m)
Out: Andy Carroll (West Ham, £15m)
Released: Tyrell Belford, Jamie

Carragher, Jamie Stephens, Danny Wilson (Hearts, free)

MANCHESTER CITY
In: Fernandinho (Shakhtar Donetsk, £30m), Jesus Navas (Sevilla, £14.9m)

Released: Wayne Bridge (Reading, free), Filippo Mancini, Ryan McGivern (Hibernian, free), Roque Santa Cruz, Kolo Toure (Liverpool, free)

MANCHESTER UNITED

In: Guillermo Varela (Atletico Madrid, undisclosed), Fernando Amorebieta (Athletic Bilbao, free), Derek Boateng (Dnipro, free)
Released: Reece Brown, John Cofie, Michele Fornasier, Luke Givens, Luke Hendrie, Luke McCullough, Paul Scholes, Glynn Van Velzen, Freddie Veseli

NEWCASTLE

Released: Steve Harper, Yvén Moyo, Danny Simpson

NORWICH

In: Javier Garrido (Lazio, Undisclosed)
Released: Tom Adeyemi, Lee Camp, Olumide Durojaiye, George

Francomb, Simeon Jackson, Chris Martin, Ramlil Sheriff, Korey Smith (Oldham, free), Marc Tierney (Bolton, free), Elliott Ward (Bournemouth, free)

SAINTS

In: Dejan Lovren (Lyon, £8.5m)
Released: Frazer Richardson, Danny Butterfield, Dan Seaborne, Ryan Dickson, Ben Reeves, Sam Hoskins, Tommy Forecast, Alberto Seidi

STOKE CITY

Released: Michael Clarkson, Rory Delap, Matthew Gledhill, Jadan Hall, Matthew Lund, Andrew Musungu, Carlo Nash, Michael Owen, Jermaine Pennant, George Rigg, Mamady Sidibe, Matthew Upson, Dean Whitehead

SUNDERLAND

In: Cabral (Basel, Free), Modibo Diakite (Lazio, free), Valentin Robege (Marítimo, free), Duncan Watmore (Altrincham, undisclosed), David Möberg Karlsson (IFK Gothenburg, Undisclosed)
Released: Carlton Cole, Jake Larkins (Leyton Orient, free), Gary O'Neil, Jack Powell, Jami Rafati, Eoin Wearen.

Kilgallon, Ryan Noble, Adam Reed, Ben Wilson

SWANSEA

In: Jose Canas (Real Betis, free)
Released: Mark Gower (Charlton, free)

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Released: Jack Bartram, David Bentley, John Bostock, William Gallas, Jack Munns, Jake Nicholson

WEST BROMWICH ALBION

Released: Marc-Antoine Fortune, Zoltan Gera, Gonzalo Jara (Nottingham Forest, free), Romaine Sawyers, Jerome Thomas

WEST HAM

In: Adrian (Real Betis, free), Razvan Rat (Shakhtar Donetsk, free), Andy Carroll (Liverpool, £15m), Danny Whitehead (Stockport, undisclosed)
Released: Carlton Cole, Jake Larkins (Leyton Orient, free), Gary O'Neil, Jack Powell, Jami Rafati, Eoin Wearen.

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Saints Spotlight

ENGLAND PAIN

announced by Premier League clubs so far.

But only three have been English, and two of them are youngsters plucked from the relative obscurity of Altrincham and Stockport County.

The only Englishman so far signed by a top flight club since last season ended who can be considered a first team regular is Andy Carroll.

The England striker's £15m permanent move from Liverpool to West Ham, after a loan spell featuring seven league goals last season, was finalised this week.

There is one more British player with Scottish attacking midfielder George Boyd also moving to the Premier League.

The remaining players all come from overseas.

You could argue the merits of this all day long, but it does seem a worrying trend.

The new crop of foreign signings includes Saints' sole signing of the transfer window so far, Croatian defender Dejan Lovren who joined for £8.5m.

Most of the rest of the players they have been linked with, including the latest rumblings over a £10m offer for Celtic's Victor Wanyama, are also from overseas.

This is not really a surprise, given Saints have a foreign chairman with overseas contacts and a foreign manager.

I do not expect Saints to field 52 per cent of English players next season, no way.

But the bottom line for most fans is success on the pitch, not necessarily the make-up of nationalities in the squad.

If a team packed with overseas stars helps take Saints to the much talked about 'next level', there won't be many grumbles from the St Mary's faithful.

The majority of other clubs also appear to be looking overseas.

Aston Villa were one of the few clubs to sign young English talent last summer, with the captures of Sheffield United's Matthew Lowton, Crewe's Ashley Westwood and Chesterfield's Jordan Bowery for a combined fee of almost £6m.

Lowton went on to play all but one of Villa's Premier League games in 2012/13 while Westwood appeared in 30 matches and Bowery TEN.

That was full credit to Villa boss Paul Lambert, especially as he was new to the club.

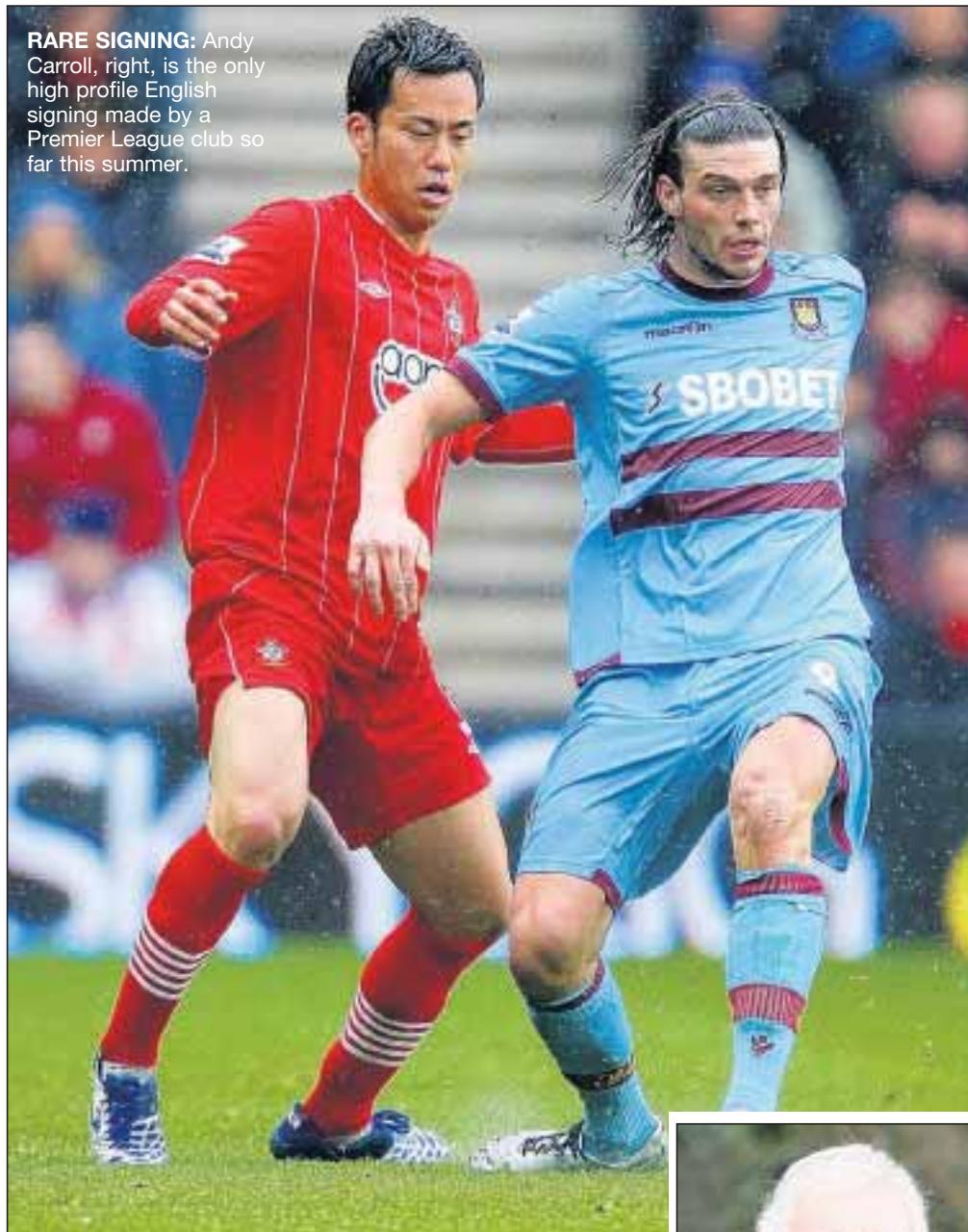
However, it has been a vastly different story in recent weeks as Lambert has brought in five new signings – all from overseas.

Sunderland boss Paolo Di Canio has also been equally busy signing overseas players.

Di Canio, though, has brought in one Englishman – a young striker from Altrincham, Duncan Whatmore.

But it is hard to envisage him get-

RARE SIGNING: Andy Carroll, right, is the only high profile English signing made by a Premier League club so far this summer.



ting many league games under his belt next season.

Same with ex-Stockport youngster Danny Whitehead, West Ham's second strike signing of the week but a less higher profile name than Carroll.

If this trend were to continue across the league for the rest of the summer transfer window, it will almost certainly see the number of English players tumble even further from last season.

The total percentage of English players used in the Premier League last season was 37 per cent.

In La Liga there were 61 per cent Spanish players, in Serie A 48 per cent Italian players and in the Bundesliga 47 per cent German players.

With ever more money sloshing around in Premier League clubs' bank balances, it looks like we can expect some of that new windfall from the television deals to be splashed on foreign signings.

If that proves to be the case, then please let there be no gnashing of teeth if England's failures at international levels, throughout the age groups, continues.

CONCERN: Saints legend Lawrie McMenemy.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"The first Test is going to be massive. There is massive psychological warfare – it's do or die on Saturday" – Brumbies coach Jake White hypes up the clash between the Lions and Australia.

"One of the reasons for taking on a challenge like this is you know it's a huge club with a huge support and you know that support will rally round. If people don't support us and there's not buyers there, there's not funding, if supporters don't come out and support us in every way, then we can't continue, because we can't keep the doors open" – Hearts administrator Bryan Jackson pleads with fans to get behind the financially stricken club.

"Some are talking out of their backsides, a load of tosh. I'm not accepting it, as simple as that. I have certainly got more intelligence than them, that's for sure" – Newcastle's former manager and new director of football, Joe Kinnear, hits out at fans disgruntled over his appointment.



JOE KINNEAR

"Where do we start? What I do know is that right now people are laughing at the football club I support. And that sickens me. I promised myself years ago never to be surprised by what happens in football – particularly when it comes to Newcastle. But this situation really is stretching it a bit" – Alan Shearer believes the appointment of Joe Kinnear – and subsequent resignation of Derek Llambias – has turned the club into a laughing stock.

"It's a part of being on tour, regrouping. You have a bit of a knock, you take your disappointment and it is how you respond to it. A lot of us have been through it in the past – you just get back on the horse" – Lions coach Warren Gatland shrugs off his team's shock defeat to the Brumbies on their tour Down Under.

"This England side in particular has delivered when the chips have been down and the pressure has been at its highest so I have no doubt that the guys in our dressing room will turn up on Sunday and I am fully confident that they can do it" – England captain Alastair Cook sets his sights on winning the ICC Champions Trophy final.

"We need to be honest with ourselves. I think we did choke again today. It's a horrible word but we have to front up. We let ourselves down" – South Africa cricket coach Gary Kirsten after his team's semi-final loss to England.

"It's a special thrill for the Queen. She said it gave her great pleasure and she thanked everyone involved. She really loves this game and it's a great recreation for her. It's the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot and it has been done for a lady who, never mind being the Queen, loves racing and is so good for British racing" – Trainer Sir Michael Stoute on Thursday's victory by Estimate, the Queen's horse, in the Gold Cup at Ascot.



CALL THE SPORTS DESK ON 023 8042 4515

The title is anyone's

THERE are few things more likely to get you hitting the "refresh" button on your pc more than fixtures day, nothing like the release of the new season's venues and opposition to get the football talk flowing again.

After last season's brutal introduction to life in the Premier League you'd be perfectly within your rights to be wary of what to expect. To play both Manchester teams in quick succession was harsh to say the least.

Saints had a nightmare start which, despite the fact we'd shown real potential, had many so-called experts reaching for the "They'll finish with less points than Derby" button, a favourite cliché of most media folk.

Away to West Brom provides a perfect start, a winnable game that pitches us against a team that realistically we should be locking horns with if they maintain last season's form.

It's followed by the visit of Paolo Di Canio's Sunderland at St Marys, Norwich away and West Ham at home.

Call me optimistic but if Saints can improve on last season's performances and step up a gear, consistently, then we could realistically look at being in a very healthy position come the end of September.

As Saints are traditionally slow starters and, bar playing the newly promoted teams first, I can't see a better start for us.

On the transfer front, things seem to be taking a rather startling turn with Saints actually spending early in signing highly-rated Croatian defender Dejan Lovren from Lyon.

Young, highly rated and central defender... all in one sentence, you'd be forgiven for thinking you'd slept through the next six months and it was Christmas already.

Saints are also being linked with Celtic's midfielder Victor Wanyama. Wanyama would be an ideal signing, a strong box to box midfielder who can hold the ball up and is calm in possession and strong in the tackle.

It's a massive indication of how far we've progressed, and how distant Scottish football is, that a team of Celtic's prominence can be wrestled out of the way by a big money bid.

Saints seem to be aggressively seeking their targets out and getting them in early. Saints are also rumoured to be interested

So why not Saints?

The Beautiful South
with Daren Wheeler



SUPER SAINTS:
Happy times
can get even
happier.

in Éver Banega with a €9 million bid rumoured to have been tabled.

With Lovren, Saints appear to have signed just the right sort of player we needed, a young, able versatile centre back who can play on the left or the right.

The fact that he was also being monitored by Tottenham and Inter Milan, among others, speaks volumes; not just at the sort of players we're aiming for, but the vision for the club they're being given.

You don't choose Southampton over Inter

Milan or Spurs unless you're being told the club is really going somewhere.

It all leads to the question, just where do we see ourselves this season?

If we're honest, and not our usual pessimistic selves, then Saints should be a solid mid-table team this season with a view to pushing for a chance of Europe the next.

But this season would appear to be a little bit special.

For the first time ever, I'm putting a bet on us to win the league. Yes, you heard me cor-

rectly, win the league.

Year after year Saints have been the subject of relegation bets when it comes to Premiership football.

This year is, on paper, the most open in years.

Manchester United have lost the Fergie factor, you can argue that it was Ferguson who made them the dynamic force they have been over the last 20 years.

Manchester City are a shambolic mess, Chelsea have an ageing team of egos, Arsenal are a team of lightweights that flatter to deceive, Tottenham could start the season without Bale and their influential manager and Liverpool will tell you they were massive in the 80's.

In short, anyone could win the league. Saints?

We will probably be light years away from winning anything this season but, if you don't have a flutter on a season like this, when will you ever?

If you'd asked me five years ago if I'd ever place a bet like this I'd have laughed in your face.

Two successive promotions and a startling first season back in the top flight have told me that anything is possible, especially if you have an ambitious chairman like Nicola Cortese.

I've said it before and I'll no doubt say it again, I can't remember the last time I had so much faith in a Southampton chairman.

The media might not like him but, when was the last time anyone shouted "There's one Martin Samuel"?

I don't care about him or any of the other nay sayers, I care about Southampton Football club and, with that in mind, I can't think of anyone I'd rather have at the helm than Nicola Cortese.

July is rapidly approaching and the papers are full of stories of Saints being linked to really good players rather than rubbish signings that weren't good enough for last season's relegated teams.

This management team, from top to bottom, appear to have lofty ambitions. The likes of Martin Samuel will no doubt mock us for aiming high; "who is Nicola Cortese for having just delusions of grandeur?"

"Who do Saints fans think they are, dreaming of that impossible dream?"

It's football and maybe for one season only, it's anyone's game. Bring on the 17th.

Daily Echo



3 days from
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Paris & the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

A weekend in Paris to remember - 5 October 2013

The Prix de l'Arc, Europe's richest horse race, is a spectacle that just has to be seen and experienced! Once a year, as the Autumn colours begin to tinge the fabled Bois de Boulogne, the French capital plays host to an event that rivals any in the world for glitz and glamour, fun and excitement. As well as a day at the races, you'll also have an evening in Paris to enjoy one of the most exciting, glamorous and beautiful cities in the world.

Price includes • Return coach travel • Return channel crossing by ferry/Eurotunnel • Two nights' bed and continental breakfast in a three star hotel in the Greater Paris area • Coach transfers to and from Longchamps race-course • Admission to Longchamps racecourse • The services of a Tour Manager

Great Value Coach Holidays

4 days from
£179.00



100th Tour de France - Paris

Departs 19 July 2013

In its' 100th anniversary year, this is your chance to experience the carnival atmosphere of the crowds, and the thrilling climax of the Tour de France! Seven-time Olympic gold medallist Sir Bradley Wiggins is the first-ever Brit to win the Tour, Sky teammate, Olympic bronze medallist Chris Froome, and the fastest man on two wheels, Mark Cavendish, will all compete in a bid to be crowned the winner under a floodlit Arc de Triomphe.

Price includes • Return coach travel from the local area • Return Channel crossings • Three nights' bed & continental breakfast accommodation in a hotel on the outskirts of Paris • Short Sightseeing Tour of Paris • Transfer to Paris to view the final of Tour de France • The services of a Tour Manager

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football

AFTER years of hype, most of which seemed unfounded, Neymar's displays in the Confederations Cup have everyone asking 'Is this kid as good as they say he is?'

Well, those in the know at Barcelona certainly think so and, considering the raft of players who have turned into world beaters under their watch, perhaps it is time to sit up and take notice.

If the huge transfer fee (£48.6m) and the years of hype, mainly from South America, hadn't already grabbed your attention then his strike against Japan just three minutes into this summer's tournament certainly had everyone salivating at the prospect of Messi and Neymar in the same team.

While Neymar, or Neymar Jr as his shirt currently shows, has become renowned for moments of sheer brilliance, it is his inconsistency that has given ammunition to his critics.

It seems overly critical of a player who is only 21, but such has been the hype that the scope of media scrutiny has only intensified.

We have seen it before, with a precocious young talent from Croxteth who burst onto the scene as a 16-year-old.

I am, of course, talking about Wayne Rooney, a self-assured young lad whose transfer from Everton to Manchester United came with a massive price tag, one that had the capability of crushing him under the sheer weight of expectation.

Instead, though, the cocky young forward grabbed the limelight, smashing a hat-trick on his debut for the club, in the Champions League. Neymar is cut from the same cloth – a brash young forward who sometimes borders on the arrogant.

The price tag placed on his head won't be a hindrance to him, but rather a help, as he believes he is truly that good.

At the other end of the scale, we have already seen an ex-Santos star who was dubbed the 'new Pelé' make the trip across the Atlantic with rather unsuccessful results.

A certain Robinho arrived in Europe to much fanfare in 2005, the final piece in the new Galácticos jigsaw.

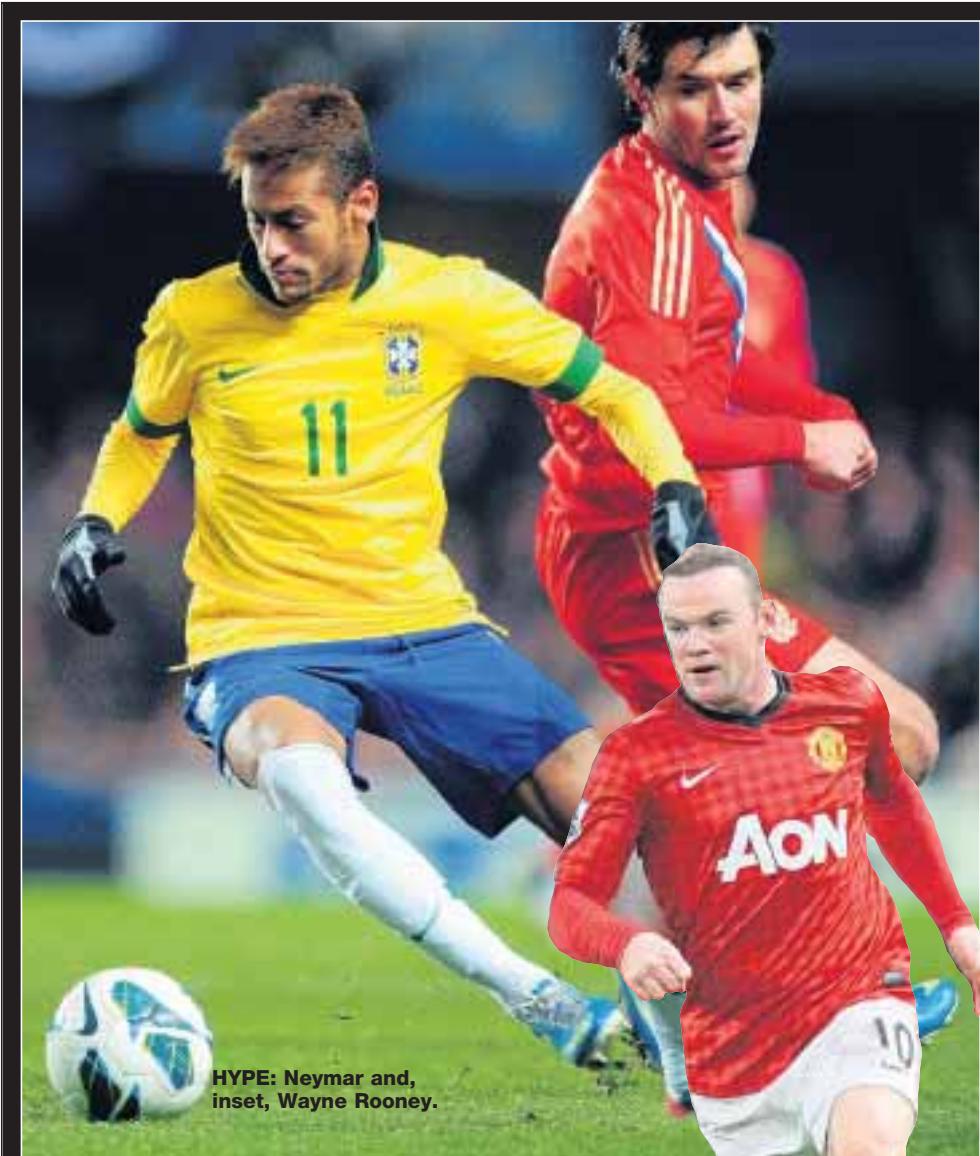
But what transpired in Madrid showed that the leap from Brazilian football to the top European leagues is not one to be taken lightly.

While previous superstars such as Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Ronaldinho had cut their teeth at lesser clubs, Robinho was thrown straight in with the sharks at the Bernabéu.

It was not long until he was branded an overpriced flop and sent to Manchester City where he was considered even more overpriced and offered little to the side in his two-and-a-bit seasons there.

The similarities are alarming, with both players boasting very similar records at the same club in Brazil and having been hyped since they first made their debuts as teenagers.

The marked difference, however, is in their record for the national



HYPE: Neymar and, inset, Wayne Rooney.

NEYMAR CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH AS ROONEY

side. Neymar has flourished, as the Seleção look to build the next generation of World Cup winners. His technically-superb left-foot volley against Mexico was his 23rd in national colours in only 37 matches.

Compare that to the 26 Robinho notched in 90 appearances and you start to get the picture.

As for the man himself, his early precociousness has subsided somewhat in recent times – along with his outlandish hairstyle.

He has taken on added responsibility as the World Cup draws nearer and expectations have started to grow.

No number in Brazil is more widely regarded than the number 10.

Zico, Rivaldo and Ronaldinho are all match-winners on the biggest of stages who have worn the number made famous by Pelé.

Neymar has slipped into the shirt with ease, displaying all the self-assuredness he has always shown, and performing impressively so far.

His unstoppable volley against Japan got the carnival going and his jaw-dropping assist against Mexico had viewers dancing their own little samba.

The theatrics that come with every Neymar showing sometimes have the ability to take the shine off

his performances.

But it is something that we will have to learn to live with, for it doesn't seem to be going anywhere.

So, while Brazilians continue to vent their frustration at the money spent to stage the World Cup, they place all their hope in a player for whom massive money has been spent, on what remains largely untested talent.

It is his potential, though, that has seen the biggest clubs in the world court him, both publicly and in private.

Let's hope he can live up to all the hype. He seems to be on the right path.

Moyes facing baptism of fire

JUST a moment to touch on the fixtures that came out this week for the forthcoming season.

Such is the nature of football that the dust of last season has barely settled, yet we are already looking to the next campaign and how the opening weekend shapes up.

It is a case of mix-and-match, with none of last season's top ten teams meeting on the opening weekend. There are still some intriguing fixtures, though.

David Moyes', below, first match in charge of Manchester United is a tricky trip to the Liberty Stadium, followed by matches against Chelsea and Liverpool, in what is a tough start for the defending champions.

José Mourinho's second stint at Stamford Bridge begins with a rather less testing assignment, as his side face Hull at home.

Newcastle travel to the Etihad Stadium, where they have never won, to face a new-look Manchester City in what is a not-too-difficult opener for Manuel Pellegrini.

Brendan Rodgers continues his red revolution at home to Stoke, with Mark Hughes out to prove his doubters wrong, as he begins his tenure with the Potters.

Elsewhere, the London derby between Spurs and Crystal Palace and Aston Villa's trip to the Emirates Stadium have the look of an exciting couple of fixtures.

One final mention, too, for Southampton's trip to West Brom, who started last season like a house on fire.

However, the recall of Romelu Lukaku to Chelsea by Mourinho may have an adverse effect on the Baggies, making the trip to the Hawthorns more appealing for Saints.

It may be just under two months away, but it is easy to already get excited about next season, when the Premier League will enter a new era. Roll on August.



Cherries/Pompey Spotlight



PORTSMOUTH FC 2013/14 FIXTURES

LEAGUE 2

AUGUST

3 Oxford United	.....H
10 Accrington	.....A
17 Morecambe	.....H
24 Mansfield	.....A
31 Chesterfield	.....H

SEPTEMBER

7 Cheltenham	.....A
14 Burton	.....A
21 Fleetwood	.....H
28 York City	.....A

OCTOBER

5 Rochdale	.....H
12 Plymouth	.....A
19 Bury	.....H
22 Wycombe (7.45pm)	.....H
26 Torquay	.....A

NOVEMBER

2 Exeter City	.....H
16 AFC Wimbledon	.....A
23 Scunthorpe	.....H
26 Southend (7.45pm)	.....H
30 Hartlepool	.....A

DECEMBER

14 Newport Co	.....H
21 Bristol Rovers	.....A
26 Dagenham	.....H
29 Northampton	.....H

JANUARY

1 Southend	.....A
4 Accrington	.....H
11 Oxford United	.....A
18 Mansfield Town	.....H
25 Morecambe	.....A
28 Wycombe (7.45pm)	.....A

FEBRUARY

1 Torquay United	.....H
8 Exeter City	.....A
15 AFC Wimbledon	.....H
22 Scunthorpe	.....A

MARCH

1 Chesterfield	.....A
8 Cheltenham	.....H
11 Burton (7.45pm)	.....H
15 Fleetwood	.....A
22 York City	.....H
25 Rochdale (7.45pm)	.....A
29 Newport Co	.....A

APRIL

5 Hartlepool	.....H
12 DagenhamA
19 Bristol RoversH
21 NorthamptonA
26 BuryA

MAY

3 Plymouth ArgyleH
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A VERY BUSY GUY ...

Simon Carter
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SPORTS EDITOR

PORTSMOUTH'S Guy Whittingham has been the busiest League 2 manager so far since the 2012/13 season ended.

The Fratton Park goalscorer legend knew full well he had to act quickly to bring new players into his squad.

Whittingham has made eight new signings so far, as well as re-signing some members of the squad that finished last season such as captain Johnny Ertl and ex-Saints striker David Connolly.

Among Whittingham's new recruits, from what will be Pompey's first fourth tier season since 1979/80, is striker Tom Craddock.

The 26-year-old was Oxford United's joint top league scorer in the division last term with ten goals from 22 starts, plus ten more off the bench.

Craddock, though, scored his goals in just seven matches.

He netted twice against both Southend and Dagenham and struck four times in a 5-0 home win over Accrington Stanley.

Craddock made his league debut in the Premier League in May 2006 for Middlesbrough.

But he made his name as a striker playing for Luton Town in the Hatters' debut Conference campaign of 2009/10.

He struck 24 goals in all – including seven in a five-game spell in March and



NEW RECRUIT: Andy Barcham, right.

April when Luton belted 25 goals – including a hat-trick against a Histon side featuring current Eastleigh captain Glen Southam.

Luton lost in the play-off semi-final, though, to York City.

York went on to lose in the final to Oxford United, and it was they who signed Craddock shortly into the following season.

He netted 15 times for the O's in his debut 2010/11 season, but struck only once in 2009/10.

He struck 24 goals in all – including seven in a five-game spell in March and

Whittingham has also

brought in Scunthorpe winger Andy Barcham to provide the service to the likes of Craddock and Connolly.

Barcham, also 26, started his career at Tottenham but joined Gillingham in September 2008 without having made a league appearance.

Voted Gillingham's player of the season in 2008/09, Barcham moved onto Scunthorpe in the summer of 2011.

He made 38 league and cup appearances for The Iron last season, but scored

just once – and that was in his first game of the term, a 5-5 Capital One Cup draw against higher division Derby County.

Whittingham has strengthened his defence by bringing in two youngsters from Premier League newcomers Hull City.

Sonny Bradley, 21, will be no stranger to Hampshire, having spent the whole of last season on loan to relegated Aldershot Town.

He had also spent the second half of 2011/12 on loan to the Shots.

League 2 ins and outs – summer 2013 ... League 2 ins and outs – summer 2013

ACCRINGTON
In: Nicky Hunt (Rotherham, free)
Out: Amine Linganzi (Gillingham, Free).

AFC WIMBLEDON
In: Chris Arthur (Havant & W, Free), Barry Fuller (Barnet, free).

BRISTOL ROVERS
In: Steve Mildenhall (Millwall, free).
Out: Oumare Toukara (Stevenage, free).

BURY
Out: Steven Schumacher (Fleetwood, Undisclosed), David Worrall (Rotherham, free), Marcus Marshall (Morecambe, free).

CHELTENHAM
In: Jamie Cureton (Exeter, free).
Out: Kaid Mohamed (Port Vale, Free).

CHESTERFIELD
In: Eoin Doyle (Hibernian, free), Aaron Chapman (Belper, Free), Jimmy Ryan (Scunthorpe, Free).
Out: Richard Brindley (Rotherham, Free), Craig Clay (York, Free).

EXETER
Out: Jamie Cureton (Cheltenham, free).

FLEETWOOD TOWN
In: Liam Hogan (FC Halifax, Free), Jeff Hughes (Notts County, Free), Steven Schumacher (Bury, Undisclosed), Matty Blair (York City, Free), Stewart Murdoch (Falkirk, Free).
Out: Jordan Burrow (Stevenage, free), Lewis Alessandra (Plymouth, Free).

HARTLEPOOL
Out: Ewan Horwood (Tranmere, free).

MANSFIELD
In: Keiran Murtagh (Macclesfield, free), Paul Black (Tranmere, Free), Jamie McGuire (Fleetwood, Free), Martin Riley (Wrexham, Free), John McCombe (Port Vale, Free).
Out: Luke Jones (Stevenage, free).

MORECAMBE
In: Tony Diagne (Macclesfield, Undisclosed), Marcus Marshall (Bury, free).
Out: Jordan Burrow (Stevenage, free), Lewis Alessandra (Plymouth, Free).

NEWPORT COUNTY
In: Adam Chapman (Oxford Utd, free), Chris Zebroski (Eastleigh, free).
Out: Jonathan Meades (Bournemouth, free).

OXFORD UNITED
In: Jonathan Meades (Bournemouth, free), Josh Shama (Unattached), David Hunt (Crawley, Free), Daniel Rose (Fleetwood, Free), Out: Simon Heslop (Stevenage, free), Luke McCormick (Plymouth, free), Adam Chapman (Newport, free).

ROCHDALE
In: Scott Hogan (Hyde, free), Peter Vincenti (Aldershot, free), Bastien Hery (Sheffield Wednesday, free), Olly Lancashire (Aldershot, free), Ashley Eastham (Blackpool, free).

SCUNTHORPE
In: Andy Dawson (Hull, free), Terry Hawridge (Gainsborough, Undisclosed), Luke Waterfall (Gainsborough, Undisclosed).
Out: Jimmy Ryan (Chesterfield, Free).

WYCOMBE
In: Nick Arnold (Reading, loan)

YORK CITY
In: Ryan Bowman (Hereford, Undisclosed), Craig Clay (Chesterfield, Free), Ryan Jarvis (Torquay, Free), Sander Puri (Unattached), Wes Fletcher (Burnley, Free), Chris Keittings (Blackpool, Free).

NON-LEAGUE SPOTLIGHT - SEE PAGES 10-11

Cherries/Pompey Spotlight



**I WANT TO REALISE
PREMIER
LEAGUE
DREAM
WITH
CHERRIES**

**- says Dean Court
new boy Ward**

NEW Cherries recruit Elliott Ward admits he still harbours hopes of returning to the Premier League and says he is keen to achieve his goal during his time at Dean Court.

The powerful central defender yesterday agreed terms on an initial one-year deal and became Eddie Howe's first summer signing following his release from Norwich City.

Ward helped the Canaries and West Ham secure a place in the top flight before being used sparingly by both clubs once they had won promotion in 2011 and 2005, respectively.

The 28-year-old – brother of

Swindon defender Darren Ward – left Upton Park for Coventry in a £1million move in 2006 before joining Norwich on a free in 2010.

Ward, who had been a free agent, had been widely tipped to join Nottingham Forest after impressing during two loans spells at the City Ground last season.

Asked what had tipped the balance, Ward said: "The desire to get me here was a big pull."

"I spoke to Eddie a few times and was impressed with what he put in front of me about the plans for the future. It was quite a simple decision in the end."

"This is a club that is progressing quite well and getting promotion was massive."

"Everything is coming along quite

steadily and I am happy to be here and to be a part of it."

"In terms of the club progressing, they have done it slowly and the next step is the Premier League."

"I am not saying we will do that within a year but you never know what can happen in football."

"When I joined Norwich, they had just gone up to the Championship and we got promoted to the Premier League in my first season."

"I am not telling Bournemouth supporters to start getting excited and won't be making any bold statements about us going straight up."

"It depends how you start and you have to be consistent."

"If you get consistency through-

out the squad and the team, there is a good chance."

"You also need a bit of luck along the way and it is going to be a big test but one I am up for."

"It is a big challenge for me and that is what excited me as well."

Ward, who has also had loan spells during his career with Peterborough, Bristol Rovers, Plymouth, Doncaster and Preston, added: "I haven't played enough games in the Premier League but, when I did, I thought I did well."

"Personally, that is another ambition and, just because I have signed here, it doesn't mean I want to stand still."

"I want to keep moving forward, keep progressing and, hopefully, play there again soon."

Championship ins and outs – summer 2013 ... Championship ins and outs ...

BARNESLEY

In: Dale Jennings (Bayern Munich, £250,000), Chris O'Grady (Sheffield Wed, free)
Out: Stephen Foster (Tranmere, free)

BIRMINGHAM

In: Lee Novak (Birmingham, Free), Neil Eardley (Blackpool, free), Darren Randolph (Motherwell, Free), Olly Lee (Barnet, Free). Millwall.
Out: Steve Mildenhall (Bristol Rovers, free), Chris Taylor (Blackburn, free).

BLACKBURN

In: Simon Eastwood (Portsmouth,

Free), Alan Judge (Notts County, Free), Chris Taylor (Millwall, Free).

BLACKPOOL

Out: Neil Eardley (Birmingham, free), Ashley Eastham (Rochdale, free).

BOLTON

In: Marc Tierney (Bolton, Free).

BOURNEMOUTH

In: Elliott Ward (Norwich, free). Out: Jonathan Meades (Oxford, free).

BURNLEY

In: Joseph Mills (Reading, free), Tom

Heaton (Bristol City, free), Alex Cisak (Oldham, Free).
Out: Lee Grant (Derby, free), Wes Fletcher (York, Free).

CHARLTON

In: Mark Gower (Swansea, Free). Out: John Sullivan (Portsmouth, Free).

DERBY

In: Chris Martin (Norwich, Free), Lee Grant (Burnley, free), Johnny Russell (Dundee United, £750,000).

HUDDERSFIELD

Out: Tom Clarke (Preston, Free), Lee

Novak (Birmingham, Free).

IPSWICH

In: Cole Skuse (Bristol City, Free), Daryl Murphy (Celtic, Free), Jay Tabb (Reading, Free).

LEEDS

In: Matt Smith (Oldham, Free).

NOTTM FOREST

In: Eric Lichaj (Aston Villa, free), Gonzalo Jara (West Brom, free).

READING

In: Wayne Bridge (Manchester City,

free).
Out: Joseph Mills (Burnley, Free), Nick Arnold (Wycombe, Loan), Mikkel Andersen (Rangers, Loan), Jay Tabb (Ipswich, Free).

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Out: Bastien Hery (Rochdale, Free), Chris O'Grady (Barnsley, undisclosed)

WATFORD

Out: Jack Bonham (Brentford, Free), Chris Iwelumo (Scunthorpe, Free).

YEOVIL

Out: Reuben Reid (Plymouth, loan)

BOURNEMOUTH 2013/14 FIXTURES

CHAMPIONSHIP

AUGUST

3 Charlton	.....	H
10 Watford	.....	A
17 Wigan	.....	H
24 Huddersfield	.....	A
31 Doncaster	.....	A

SEPTEMBER

14 Blackpool	.....	H
17 Barnsley (7.45pm)	....	H
21 Middlesbrough	.....	A
28 Blackburn	.....	H

OCTOBER

1 Leeds (7.45pm)	.....	A
5 Millwall	.....	H
19 Nottm Forest	.....	A
26 Leicester City	.....	A

NOVEMBER

2 Bolton	.....	H
9 Burnley	.....	A
23 Derby	.....	H
30 Brighton	.....	H

DECEMBER

3 QPR (7.45pm)	.....	A
7 Reading	.....	A
14 Birmingham	.....	H
21 Sheffield Wed	.....	A
26 Yeovil Town	.....	H
29 Ipswich Town	.....	H

JANUARY

1 Brighton	.....	A
11 Wigan	.....	A
18 Watford	.....	H
25 Charlton	.....	A
28 Huddersfield (7.45pm)	H	H

FEBRUARY

1 Leicester City	.....	H
8 Bolton	.....	A
15 Burnley	.....	H
22 Derby	.....	A

MARCH

1 Doncaster	.....	H
8 Blackpool	.....	A
11 Blackburn (7.45pm)	..	A
15 Middlesbrough	.....	H
22 Barnsley	.....	A
25 Leeds (7.45pm)	.....	H
29 Birmingham	.....	H

APRIL

5 QPR	.....	H
8 Reading	.....	A
12 Yeovil Town	A
19 Sheffield Wed	H
21 Ipswich	A
26 Nottm Forest	H

MAY

3 Millwall	A
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LOCAL CRICKET NOSTALGIA - SEE PAGES 26-27

Non-league Football

Family fun day

WINCHESTER City's Family Fun Day on Sunday, July 14, will be run in conjunction with the Joe Glover Trust who will share the proceeds of the day.

The Trust, formed in 2007 following the death of eight-year-old Joe Glover from Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, is a Hampshire-based children's cancer charity working with families and specialist children's cancer units across Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire, East and West Sussex, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands.

Highlight of the day will be a past-versus-present match between Graham Kemp's new-look Winchester City side and City's 2004 FA Vase-winning squad.

The club also hope to stage an under-16 game against lads who knew Joe, who would have been 16 this year.

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES:

Saturday, July 6: Alresford Town v East Preston (at Perrins School), Blackfield & Langley v East Cowes Vics, Havant & Waterlooville v Wycombe Wanderers, Horndean v Clanfield, Wimminster v Bournemouth Poppies, Wimborne Town v AFC Bournemouth.

Monday, July 8: Blackfield & Langley v AFC Totton.

Tuesday, July 9: AFC Stoneham v Fareham Town, Christchurch v AFC Bournemouth, Eastleigh v Wycombe Wanderers, Havant & Waterlooville v Portsmouth, Sholing v SAINTS Under-21s, Stockbridge v Fleet Town (7.30).

Thursday, July 11: Laverstock & Ford v Shrewton, Moneyfields Res v Hythe & Dibden, US Portsmouth v Winchester City.

Friday, July 12: Hamworthy Utd v Poole Town, Stockbridge v Winchester City Community FC (7.30).

Saturday, July 13: Basingstoke Town v Reading Under-21s, Blackfield & Langley v Gosport Borough, Chichester City v Bournemouth Poppies, Cowes Sports v Totton & Eling, Hythe & Dibden v Alresford Town, Laverstock & Ford v Whitchurch, QK Southampton v Fareham Town, Verwood Town v Fleet Town, Westbury Utd v Amesbury Town.

Sunday, July 14: Winchester City FC v WFCFC 2004 FA Vase Winners.

Tuesday, July 16: Blackfield & Langley v Fleet Town, Gillingham Town v Verwood Town, Hamworthy Rec v Bournemouth Poppies (6.30), Lympington Town v Hythe & Dibden, QK Southampton v Alresford Town.

Wednesday, July 17: Hamworthy Utd v Wimborne Town, Horndean v Havant & Waterlooville, Stockbridge v Bermeton HH (7.30).

Thursday, July 18: Team Solent v Fareham Town (7.15).

Friday, July 19: Hamworthy Utd v Sherborne Town, Sholing v Gosport Borough.

Saturday, July 20: Buckland Athletic v Bournemouth Poppies, Chelsea XI v Horndean (at Cobham), Cowes Sports v Foliards Sports, East Cowes Vics v Winchester Town, Frimley Green v Alresford Town, Hamworthy Utd v Badshot Lea, Havant & Waterlooville v Newport County, Hythe & Dibden v Michelmersh & Tims, Laverstock & Ford v Eling, Melksham Town v Amesbury Town, North Leigh v Eastleigh, Wimborne Town v Blackfield & Langley, Woking v AFC Bournemouth.

Monday, July 22: Team Solent v Whitchurch Utd.

Tuesday, July 23: Blackfield & Langley v Basly, Fareham Town v Havant & Waterlooville, Hamworthy Rec v Verwood Town, Hamworthy Utd v Portland Utd, Hythe & Dibden v Bermeton HH, Ludgershall v Amesbury Town (7.15), Fleet Town v Gosport Borough, Ringwood Town v Alresford Town, Selsey v Romsey Town, Wimborne Town v AFC Bournemouth Youth.

Wednesday, July 24: Stockbridge v Winchester Castle (7.30), Eastleigh v Portsdown XI.

Thursday, July 25: Merley CS v Bournemouth Poppies, Team Solent v Cadnam Utd.

Friday, July 26: Eastleigh v SAINTS XI (7.30).

Saturday, July 27: Badshot Lea v Alresford Town, Bermeton HH v Wimborne Town, Blackfield & Langley v Eastleigh, Hamworthy Utd v Thatcham Town, Hedge End Rangers v Hythe & Dibden, Laverstock & Ford v Poole Borough, Redditch Utd v Gosport Borough, Selsey v Bournemouth Poppies, Trowbridge v Amesbury Town, Wick v Fareham Town.

Monday, July 29: Team Solent v GE Hamble.

Tuesday, July 30: Arundel v Romsey Town, Christchurch v Poole Town, Fareham Town v Chichester City, Gosport Borough v Portsmouth, Winchester Castle v Alresford Town, Eastleigh v Woking (7.30).

Wednesday, July 31: AFC Stoneham v Amesbury Town, QK Southampton v Stockbridge (6.45), Verwood Town v BDFA Rep Side.

Thursday, August 1: Poole Borough v Bournemouth Poppies (6.30), Team Solent v Winchester City.

Friday, August 2: Wimborne Town v Poole Town.

Saturday, August 3: Gillingham v Poole Town, Frome Town v Gosport Borough, Stockbridge v Eastleigh, Westbury Utd v Amesbury Town, Eastleigh v Salisbury City.

Monday, August 5: Gosport Borough v Bognor Regis.

Tuesday, August 6: Hythe & Dibden v Eastleigh Res New College, Swindon v Amesbury Town (7.30), Wimborne Town v Bridport.

Saturday, August 10: AFC Totton v Eastleigh, Bashley v Wimborne Town, Gosport Borough v Weymouth, Poole Town v Basingstoke Town, Stockbridge v Broughton (tbc).



PAUL GAZZARD

CLUB legend Paul Gazzard and goalkeeper coach Stewart Kearn have been named joint managers of Bashley following the departure of Frank Gray and his right-hand man Gerry Murphy.

The changes came in the wake of the announcement of a "dramatically reduced" playing budget for next season in the Southern Premier Division.

Gray, who said there was no managerial budget on offer, described as "unworkable" the level of provision available following Richard Millberry's decision to stand down as chairman.

And he admitted the writing was on the wall as soon as Bashley's proposed alliance with neighbours New Milton Town had collapsed.

Gray's departure has opened the door for Gazzard, who recently celebrated ten years at Bashley Road, and Kearn to take the reins on a permanent basis.

Bash spent much of Gray's solitary campaign at the helm in the bottom half of the Southern Premier and were knocked out of all four cup competitions at the first stage.

But, despite feeling unable to lead the New Forest club next season, Gray insisted there were no hard feelings.

"Richard (Millberry) has stepped away totally and there is little playing and no management budget for next season," he said.

"It will be very limited and none of the current players will be available under those constraints."

"I know everyone at the club is working hard, but it will be a problem for them to replace the money."

"Things would have been a lot easier if the merger (with New Milton) had gone ahead because there would have been more people prepared to back the club in that situation."

"I wish the club well and hope they come through this and progress to where they want to be in the future."

Outgoing chairman Millberry said: "My job is finished and I have told the rest of the committee it is over to them. The budget will be dramatically reduced and things will be tough for Bashley."

"I will still be around, but I will be standing right back until things are sorted out."

Gazzard and Kearn take charge of Bashley



EMAIL PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY DETAILS TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

McCarthy excited by Romsey challenge

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

FORMER Winchester City duo Connor McCarthy and Rory Anderson are looking forward to being part of an exciting future for Romsey Town and Romsey Town Youth FC.

The pair have moved their former Winchester charges across and their under-18s will spearhead an expanding youth section at the Bypass Ground.

McCarthy, who will double up as a centre-back for Danny Barker's first team in the Sydenhams Premier Division, explained: "Myself and Rory had several meetings about where to take our squad for this year after leaving Winchester City at the end of last season.

"We both decided that Romsey Town Youth FC had the same aims as myself and Rory to give the players an enjoyable and competitive place to play.

"Romsey Youth gives staff the full backing and players need to progress and myself and Rory would love to play a part in an ever-growing youth set-up.

"With several sides in the Hampshire and Southampton youth leagues, it's going to be a great place to play your football as a lad next season.

"With the link to the men's reserves and first team, we are a club that want our players to progress after youth football which is why the link (between Romsey Town FC and Romsey Town Youth FC) has been built.

"Also, with the go-ahead for the first-team pitch to be one of the home pitches and the monthly game we will arrange against an academy side, we are making steps towards a good future.

"It was the work and ambition of people like Phil Rowland, Andy Samuels



FRESH CHALLENGE: Connor McCarthy, left.

and Claire Crossland at Romsey Town Youth that attracted myself and Rory the most and it's going to be a great set-up to be part of."

There will be an open pre-season session for under-18s ONLY next

Wednesday, June 26, at Mountbatten School, Romsey. McCarthy and Anderson would like as many keen, young players as possible to go along and see what the club has to offer. Arrive at 7pm for a 7.15pm start.

Bristow chasing one more signing

AFTER signing three players in the space of three days, Basingstoke Town boss Jason Bristow has almost completed his squad for the 2013/14 Conference South season.

The Camrose chief was a busy man last weekend, signing former Eastleigh and Salisbury City frontman Robbie Matthews, ex-Farnborough and Ebbesfleet striker Kezie Ibe and former Dartford and Aldershot goalkeeper Louis Wells to boost his playing personnel to 19.

Bristow is now in advanced talks with an experienced midfielder and, if that deal is done, it is likely to be his last of the summer.

Basingstoke's most recent signing was 31-year-old Matthews, who spent a lot of last season playing at the heart of Salisbury's defence.

But Bristow sees the 6ft 4in utility man as a replacement for departing targetman Tim Sills in attack.

"Robbie is very powerful, but also pacy," said the boss. "He can bring other people into play, but if we can get crosses into the box he will be dangerous."

"He is a good targetman, but there is more to his game than that. He is going to win his headers, but he is equally good on the floor and is not afraid to shoot."

Non-league Football

Clarke leaves City for 'fabulous opportunity' at Bristol Rovers



DARRELL Clarke has admitted it was "difficult" to leave Salisbury City after three years in charge to become assistant manager of Bristol Rovers.

Having triumphantly led Salisbury back to the Conference Premier, the 35-year-old announced he had accepted the offer to become John Ward's right-hand man at the League Two outfit.

His assistant Mikey Harris has been appointed temporary Whites boss for two weeks while the club deal with applications and interviews for the full-time vacancy.

All told, Clarke's Salisbury stay ran for six years as player and manager and he admits it was emotional

leaving the Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

"I leave Salisbury with a heavy heart after six fantastic years," he said.

"It was a difficult decision to make, but I've been offered a fabulous opportunity at Rovers, which I couldn't turn down."

"I'd like to thank the players and staff, especially Mikey Harris, who have helped the club gain promotion, which was a real team effort."

"The fans have also been great and I know they will continue to get behind the team next season."

"Finally, my thanks go to the board of directors who have been fantastic with me since appointing me as manager and given me the support needed to get the club back

into the division it belongs."

Clarke left Hartlepool in 2007 to join the Whites, then managed by ex-Saint Tommy Widdrington.

Three years later, Salisbury's financial woes forced a double demotion from the Conference National while Clarke was club captain.

That year he replaced the departed Widdrington as player-manager and, with Harris at his side, earned them instant promotion from the Southern League to the Conference South via the play-offs.

In 2011/12 the club made history under Clarke when they reached the FA Cup third round proper, pulling out a tie against League One giants Sheffield United at Bramall Lane.

But his biggest achievement arrived on Sunday, May 12, this year



Non-league News

Purser takes reins

GRAHAM Purser is the new reserve team manager at Sydenhams Wessex runners-up Alresford Town.

Purser, previously manager of Four Marks, takes over from Mark Bentley and Kevin Coates. He will be assisted by Scott Kennedy and Dan Vincent.

The Magpies' pre-season fixture with Hartley Wintney, scheduled for July 6, has been cancelled. It leaves just one game for Alresford that day, against East Preston at Perrins School.

Hunt goes to Town

ANDY Hunt has left his post as first-team manager of Sydenhams One club Fleet Spurs and taken up the reins at Godalming Town.

Hunt took over a Kennels Lane in 2010 after previous manager Neil Baker – now of Slough Town – had also left for Godalming.

Hunt has taken his assistant Neil Selby with him.

Romsey go for R&R

ROMSEY Town have added Ross and Ryan Charles to their squad for the new Sydenhams Premier season.

Ross joins the Bypass boys from newly-promoted Conference South side Gosport Borough, while Ryan has been on the books of Southern Premier newcomers Poole Town.

Munson's Town return

VERWOOD Town's hunt for a new reserve team boss is over. Neville Munson has returned to Potterne Park having run the club's second string several years back when they were in the Bournemouth Divisional FA Leagues.

Munson will be assisted by Nigel Watts and former player Shaun Gale.

Sho stars wanted

SHOLING Youth Red under-12s are moving up to under-13s next season and require players in all positions for the 2013/14 campaign.

With major ground improvements in the pipeline at Portsmouth Road, Sholing FC are entering an exciting phase in their history and youth development will play a key part going forward.

Youngsters looking to join a professionally run Tyro Division One set-up and train with fully qualified coaches should contact manager Patrick McGonigle on 07795 368913.

Killick: I've signed one of the best around



FORMER Eastleigh defender Ian Oliver has joined Tom Killick's Poole Town revolution.

The experienced left-back has been hailed by Killick as "one of the best around" having started out with Conference South outfit Eastleigh and gone on to make 125 appearances for Southern Premier side Bashley over the past three years.

Oliver, left, who has also played for Gosport Borough, joins a glut of new signings at Tatton, alongside AFC Totton trio Jamie Whisken, Richard Gillespie and Jono Davies and former Worcester City centre-back Jacob Rowe.

Manager Killick said: "We knew we might have some issues with Keith Emmerson's availability

with the Army and personal commitments, so it was important for us to sign a recognised left-back."

"I believe Ian is one of the best around. He is very experienced in the league we are going into and the one above that."

"We are now getting to the point where the majority of our players have experience in the Southern Premier, which will stand us in good stead."

Poole, meanwhile, have applied for a Football Foundation grant to help with up to £300,000-worth of ground improvements at Tatton. Dolphins chiefs are also seeking planning per-

mission for new social facilities, a stand and an extra turnstile.

The work is necessary if Poole are to satisfy the Football Association's C grade by March 31, 2014 – the deadline to come up to standard following promotion to the Southern Premier Division.

Poole vice-chairman Chris Reeves said: "I would be extremely surprised if we did not get a significant sum from the Football Foundation. But, whatever cards we are dealt, those are the ones we will have to play."

"We do have a substantial amount towards the project and, one way or another, it will happen. We haven't come this far to fail now."

Did You Know?

MOST MEN'S TITLES AT WIMBLEDON

7 William Renshaw (GB) - 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1889 (all amateur era)

7 Pete Sampras (USA) - 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 (all open era)

7 Roger Federer (SUI) - 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012 (all open era)

5 Björn Borg (SWE) - 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980 (all open era)

5 Lawrence Doherty (GB) - 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906 (all amateur era)

4 Reginald Doherty (GB) - 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900 (all amateur era)

4 Rod Laver (AUS) - 1961, 1962, 1968, 1969 (2 amateur era, 2 open era)

4 Anthony Wilding (NZ) - 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913 (all amateur era)



SEVEN SW19 TITLES: Roger Federer.

LAST 10 MEN'S SINGLES FINALS AT WIMBLEDON

2003: Roger Federer bt Mark Philippoussis 7-6(7-5), 6-2, 7-6(7-3)

2004: Roger Federer bt Andy Roddick 4-6, 7-5, 7-6(7-3), 6-4

2005: Roger Federer bt Andy Roddick 6-2, 7-6(7-2), 6-4

2006: Roger Federer bt Rafael Nadal 6-0, 7-6(7-5), 6-7(2-7), 6-3

2007: Roger Federer bt Rafael Nadal 7-6(9-7), 4-6, 7-6(7-3), 2-6, 6-2

2008: Rafael Nadal bt Roger Federer 6-4, 6-4, 6-7(5-7), 6-7(8-10), 9-7

2009: Roger Federer bt Andy Roddick 5-7, 7-6(8-6), 7-6(7-5), 3-6, 16-14

2010: Rafael Nadal bt Tomáš Berdych 6-3, 7-5, 6-4

2011: Novak Djokovic bt Rafael Nadal 6-4, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3

2012: Roger Federer bt Andy Murray 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4

ROSE BLOSSOMS

Merion triumph proves nice guys DO come first

NICE guys finish last according to former Brooklyn Dodgers manager Leo Durocher.

But when it comes to golf's major championships this year, nothing could be further from the truth, writes **FRANK MALLEY**.

After Adam Scott's welcome victory in the US Masters, it was hard to imagine a more popular winner could be possible, a winner who had also shared the Australian's experience of the highs and lows of professional sport at the highest level.

Yet just two months later, Scott's good friend and fellow 32-year-old Justin Rose – they were born just 14 days apart – joined him as a first-time major champion with a superb victory in the US Open at Merion.

Scott's lowest point had come just nine months before his victory at Augusta when he had a four-shot lead with four holes to play in the Open Championship at Lytham, bogeyed them all and lost to Ernie Els' closing birdie.

Rose's lowest point had come 14 years earlier, when he turned professional the day after finishing fourth in the 1998 Open Championship at Birkdale as a 17-year-old amateur – and then missed the cut in his first 21 tournaments in the paid ranks.

Something of a child prodigy, Rose – who grew up in north Hampshire – had broken 70 for the first time as an 11-year-old and got his handicap down to +3 by the age of 14, while he represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup aged 17.

A future in the game was seemingly inevitable, but events at Birkdale thrust Rose into the spotlight before he was ready.

The world's press followed him from the Open to the Dutch Open and saw him shoot rounds of 77 and 65 to miss the first of those fateful cuts by just one shot.

"At times it feels 25 years since Birkdale and other times it feels like it was just yesterday," Rose said after his two-shot win at Merion.

"My learning curve was steep from that point."

"I sort of announced myself on the golfing scene probably before I was ready to handle it, and golf can be a cruel game."

"I have had the ups and down, but I think that ultimately it's made me stronger."

"When I was missing 21 cuts in a row, I was just trying to not fade away."

"I just didn't want to be known as a one-hit wonder, a flash in the pan."

"I believed in myself inherently, deep down I always knew that I had a talent to play the game."

"And I simply thought that if I put talent and hard work together, surely it will work out in the end, in the long run."

"The other thing that I was able to do during that time was not beat myself further and further into the ground."

"If I missed a cut by five shots one week and I missed it by two the next week, I

would tell myself that I was getting better."

Instead of bemoaning his fate, Rose knuckled down and after three visits to the European Tour's qualifying school – the last two of them successful – he began to find his feet.

In 2002 he won his first event in his native Johannesburg and added the British Masters in June, but those highs were followed by another crushing low in September when his father Ken – a massive influence on his career – died following a long battle with leukaemia.

"I was 21 when he passed away and I always think about it as the time together we had was quality not quantity," Rose reflected.

"I would rather have had 21 fantastic years with my dad than 40 years of a relationship that was so-so."

"I have very fond memories of the way I grew up."

"My dad and I were lucky enough to spend a lot of quality time together learning to play the game, after school on the driving range, so I can look back at our life together with a lot of fondness."

Five years later, Rose was one shot behind eventual winner Zach Johnson in the final round of the US Masters only to double-bogey the 17th, but had the consolation of two wins in Europe, including the final event of the season in a play-off, to top the Order of Merit.

Another five years on came the most significant win of his career to that point, the WGC Cadillac Championship at Doral in March 2012, while later that year – 14 years after Birkdale – he secured his best finish in a major with a share of third in the US PGA Championship.

"Majors are a step up for me now," Rose said after his third round at Merion. "I've been lucky enough to win quality PGA Tour events and lucky enough to win a WGC event. So the trend for me is into the majors now."

How right he was, and how right his father was too.

"My dad always believed that I was capable of this," he said.

"He also did say when he was close to passing away, he told my mom, 'Don't worry, Justin will be OK. He'll know what to do.'

"He believed in me to be my own man and I took a lot of confidence from that."

Justin Rose is only the eighth Englishman to win a Major in America.

- He follows in the line of former US Open champions Tony Jacklin (1969), Cyril Walker (1924), Jim Barnes (1921), George Sargent (1909), Joe Lloyd (1897) and Horace Rawlins (1895).

- Nick Faldo is the only Englishman ever to win the US Masters, in 1989, 1990 and 1996.

- And Cornwall-born Barnes is the only one to win the US PGA Championship, having won it in its first two years in 1916 and 1919.

CALL GOLF WRITER GORDON SIMPSON ON 023 8042 4481

INTO MAJOR FORCE

Justin hoping US Open victory can inspire countrymen



SEALED WITH A KISS:
Justin Rose with the US Open trophy

JUSTIN Rose hopes his US Open triumph can inspire more English players to win major championships, but he also wants more of them for himself.

Tony Jacklin had been the last Englishman to win the US Open in 1970 – ten years before Rose was born – while Nick Faldo was the last to claim a major title in the 1996 US Masters.

Lee Westwood, Luke Donald, Ian Poulter, Paul Casey and Rose himself had all threatened to win one of the game's four biggest prizes since then, but it was not until Rose carded a superb final round of 70 at Merion that the barren streak came to an end.

And Rose feels his two-shot victory over Phil Mickelson and Jason Day could be the start of many for him and his contemporaries, in much the same way Graeme McDowell's US Open win at Pebble Beach in 2010 was followed by major victories for fellow Northern Irishmen Rory McIlroy and Darren Clarke.

"There's been a very strong crop of English players for quite some time now, with myself, Westwood and then Poulter as well," Rose said.

Inspire

"Paul Casey was up there for a good while and is probably going to make a comeback, I think."

"I really hope it does inspire them. It was always going to be matter of time before one of us broke through."

"It was just going to be who and I always hoped it was going to be me to be the first, obviously."

"But I really hope that it has broken the spell and the guys can continue to win some for themselves."

Faldo's Masters win in 1996 was the last of his six major titles and that will be a tough act to follow in an era which saw last year's US Open champion Webb Simpson became the ninth straight first time major winner and

Ernie Els the 16th different winner in succession at the Open at Lytham.

McIlroy snapped that streak with his second major at the US PGA Championship and Rose already has a taste for more success.

Winning makes you hungry to do it again because it just feels so darn good," Rose added. "As a professional golfer, most of us lose 90 per cent of the time.

"Winning just makes you realise and reminds you about why you practise hard and why you play the game.

"It's not necessarily the trophy that feels so great, it's knowing that you've answered the doubts in your own head, you've answered the questions, you've taken on the challenge and you've risen to it.

"Those feelings of self-accomplishment are great in the moment and I think that that's what inspires you to try and win more golf tournaments."

He added: "The silverware and the history books are phenomenal, but it's about learning about yourself and how you can handle it.

Wonder

"You wonder if you can handle it and when you realise you can, you want to experience that feeling again and again and again."

Until last year, Rose's best finish in a major championship had been a share of fourth place as a 17-year-old amateur in the Open Championship at Birkdale in 1998.

Technically he surpassed that when third in the US PGA Championship at Kiawah Island, although he was a distant nine shots behind runaway winner McIlroy and had contended more realistically on several occasions at the Masters.

One shot behind eventual winner Zach Johnson in 2007, Rose double-bogeyed the 17th hole of the final round and finished fifth, while he was eighth last year, led after the opening round in 2008 and also at halfway in 2004.

"This is the pinnacle of the game, winning major championships, and to win the US Open is in a way very fitting of how my game has been the last couple of years," Rose added.

"Last year I was leading greens in regulation (on the PGA Tour) and this year, being number one in total driving (a combination of distance and accuracy) coming into the week, I felt like this tournament really began to be on my radar as possibly the one major that would suit me the most."

"I had always felt good at Augusta, always dreamed about winning the Open Championship, but I thought this one actually might have been my best chance."

MOST WOMEN'S TITLES AT WIMBLEDON

9 Martina Navratilova (USA) - 1978, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990 (all open era)

8 Helen Wills Moody (USA) - 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1938 (all amateur era)

7 Dorothea Lambert Chambers (UK) - 1903, 1904, 1906, 1910, 1911, 1913, 1914 (all amateur era)

7 Steffi Graf (GER) - 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996 (all open era)

6 Blanche Bingley (UK) - 1886, 1889, 1894, 1897, 1899, 1900 (all amateur era)

6 Billie Jean King (USA) - 1966, 1967, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1975 (2 amateur era, four open era)

6 Suzanne Lenglen (FRA) - 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1925 (all amateur era)

5 Charlotte Cooper Sterry (UK) - 1895, 1896, 1898, 1901, 1908 (all amateur era)

5 Lottie Dod (UK) - 1887, 1888, 1891, 1892, 1893 (all amateur era)

5 Serena Williams (USA) - 2002, 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012 (all open era)

5 Venus Williams (USA) - 2000, 2001, 2005, 2007, 2008 (all open era)



FIVE TITLES: Serena Williams.

LAST 10 WOMEN'S SINGLES FINAL AT WIMBLEDON

2003: Serena Williams bt Venus Williams 4–6, 6–4, 6–2

2004: Maria Sharapova bt Serena Williams 6–1, 6–4

2005: Venus Williams bt Lindsay Davenport 4–6, 7–6(7–4), 9–7

2006: Amélie Mauresmo bt Justine Henin 6–2, 6–3, 6–4

2007: Venus Williams bt Marion Bartoli 6–4, 6–1

2008: Venus Williams bt Serena Williams 7–5, 6–4

2009: Serena Williams bt Venus Williams 7–6(7–3), 6–2

2010: Serena Williams bt Vera Zvonareva 6–3, 6–2

2011: Petra Kvitová bt Maria Sharapova 6–3, 6–4

2012: Serena Williams bt Agnieszka Radwańska 6–1, 5–7, 6–2

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Daily Echo

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Mrs K Jennings, Southampton, Hants
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Mrs E Palmer, Southampton, Hants
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DAILY ECHO



FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echoes, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

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The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

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Varicose vein mini-consultation evening

Wednesday 26th June 2013

From 6.30pm

Do you suffer from unsightly lumps, bumps or marks on your legs?

Would you like to know more about the treatments available?

Free mini-consultations offer you the opportunity to come and meet one of our consultant vascular surgeons and get advice about treatments for varicose veins and thread veins.

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Looking after you

Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with Adam Leitch

Tennis needs to go indoors

AS ever in Britain, we seem to get in a sudden frenzy about the state of tennis when Wimbledon approaches.

It is strange that it barely seems to prick the national conscience for about 11 months and two weeks and then every year, as regular as clockwork, in the week leading up to Wimbledon we remember it exists and have a collective meltdown about our lack of top players.

That leads to plenty of introspection about what we are doing wrong.

Adam Rant has said it before and will say it again – it was always a waste of time and money to throw resources at the top players just in the hope of creating more champions.

It hasn't worked, not even Andy Murray was really produced by that system, and our next best male players are also-rans on the world stage.

The women are doing better, but only just.

The fundamental problem is simple – in the UK we have weather



TOP BRIT:
Laura Robson.

that for the majority of the year does not lend itself to playing tennis outside.

There are plenty of courts, but people understandably don't want to play in wind and rain.

So we have to have indoor facilities to keep people able to play properly for much of the year.

They cost money to build and maintain, and those costs are passed directly on to the players, plus normally some more for profit.

It all adds up to meaning that most adults in Britain who want to play regular tennis have to be able to afford court charges possibly around £20 an hour, or a top rate membership to a premium leisure club. It is simply beyond the reach of many people, and even others who can afford it are put off by the price.

To make it more accessible is not a simple equation, but the only way to create more champions is to create more grassroots players across all age ranges to shift the emphasis culturally to make us more of a tennis nation.

The only way to do that is to make the game significantly cheaper to play.

Let the rain stay away

THE weather seems to come into focus more than ever when it comes to Wimbledon.

Adam Rant is hoping to be able to report back from a day out there on Monday so, in the interests of next week's column, no rain dances in the next couple of days please.

ANDY'S TIME

IF Andy Murray is to win Wimbledon during his career, then this year represents another golden opportunity.

Much of the focus going into the tournament is inevitably on the Scot, and he deserves his moment in the spotlight.

When you are looking for a winner in the men's field, it is pretty much impossible to look beyond the big four – Novak Djokovic, Rafa Nadal, Murray and defending champion Roger Federer, even if the seeding system will have Nadal fifth.

The bookies currently have Murray as third favourite, but in Adam Rant's odds factory he should be in second place – just below Djokovic.

The Serb deserves his favourite's tag but Murray can fairly be ranked above Nadal and Federer.

That may sound strange at first glance – after all, Nadal has just won the French Open and is on a remarkable winning streak after returning from injury.

Federer is the defending champion and beat Murray in last year's final.

But, on closer inspection, Murray might just have the edge over them.

Taken its toll

Nadal has made a stunning injury comeback after so long out following that shock second round Wimbledon loss of last year, but the majority of his return has been on clay.

He did win the prestigious hard court tournament in Indian Wells, which was a great feat, but other than that he has been excelling on the red stuff.

He is the greatest clay court player of all time, and that surface is very kind on his knees, which have caused him so many problems.

To have played as many matches as he had since his return, because he has reached the finals of so many tournaments, will also have taken its toll. Nadal is the ultimate competitor, but having achieved his number one goal and picked up the Roland Garros title, it wouldn't be a surprise to see him not at his peak for Wimbledon.

On the flip side injury meant Murray skipped

IN FORM: Andy Murray celebrates beating Marin Cilic in the final of the AEGON Championships at The Queen's Club.

GUARANTEED:
Serena Williams



SERENA Williams needs to turn up fit, healthy and in a good frame of mind and she is guaranteed to win Wimbledon.

While the men's draw is dominated by four players, any of whom could be the one to lift the trophy this year, the women's is headed by one individual who is miles above the rest.

The only person who can beat Serena Williams is herself, if she has one of those days where she

the French Open, one he was hugely unlikely to win, and that gave time to rest up and prepare for Wimbledon, one he CAN win.

Federer remains a dangerous opponent, but even his greatest fan, and

Adam Rant is not too far off that mark, will have to concede that he is far more unpredictable in his tennis dotage.

It was a stunning victory to pick up the Wimbledon title last year, and to beat Murray in the final.

Federer is still at the level where he could do that again, but the chances are receding.

He simply is not as consistent as he once was, particularly on the backhand side.

Of course he deserves respect on grass, and is so dangerous with that booming forehand with which he cruelly exposed the Murray second serve in the final last year that he cannot be taken lightly.

But Murray, as he should be at his comparative age, is more consistent.

So that just leaves Djokovic. There is not much to choose between him and Murray at all.

Pressure on

Their epic battles thus far have mainly gone the way of Djokovic, but in the US Open Murray did prove he has what it takes on the right day to get the job done.

On grass you might just favour Murray, but with the pressure on him, it's not easy.

Unless there is a shock somewhere down the line, if any of the big four are to win Wimbledon then they will have to beat two of the others along the way.

That is a very big ask given the quality of the others, but you don't get many chances to win Wimbledon in a career.

Murray passed up a great opportunity in 2012 – and he might not get much better than this year.

Serena simply the best – by miles!

just doesn't seem totally at it and mentally happy.

If she is at it then there is nobody who can perform even at the very top of their game and go out and beat her.

It just won't happen.

She serves at the speed of most of the top men, and has such destructive power that her opponents simply cannot live with her.

Maria Sharapova, the second best player in the world, gave a

great account of herself in the final of the French Open but was only just able to keep the scoreline respectable.

Serena seems more focussed than ever these days. She surely realises she doesn't have that many more years of playing left and is only two Grand Slams away from the women's singles record. It would be a massive surprise if she didn't halve that deficit in a fortnight's time.

ALRESFORD 10k and 4k fun run picture special



THE START OF THE FUN RUN

Daily Echo pictures by Matt Watson Order no: 16599551



Order no: 16599534



Order no: 16599404



Order no: 16599266



Order no: 16599423



RACE WINNER: Matt Bennett. Order no: 16599237

SOUTHAMPTON AC's Matthew Bennett won the sixth annual Alresford 10k.

He burst clear of his nearest rival – local man Gus Upton challenged him most of the way – before finishing in 33 minutes and 12 seconds – half a minute off the course record.

Upton finished in 33 mins 49 secs.

Third was Julian Manning from Denmead Striders. The women's race was a ding-dong battle between two runners who meet regularly on the road race league circuit.

Lynne Whitaker, herself a Vet 50 runner from Winchester AC, and Julie Humphries (Alton) swapped the lead several times before Whittaker made the stronger finish as they came into the 400 metre run around the Arlebury Park perimeter to win in 42mins 8 secs, with Humphries a very close second.

Third woman was Southampton AC's Rachel Evans (43 mins 35 secs).

More than 350 runners were given safe passage round the narrow and hilly Hampshire lanes by the enthusiastic support of the Alresford Rotarians.

Profits went to local charities, with the 10k supported by two junior races, including a 4k family fun run.



FIRST LADY: Lynne Whitaker. Order no: 16599375



Order no: 16599076



Order no: 16599135



Order no: 16599199

MURRAY TIMELINE

US Open champion Andy Murray is ready to launch his latest bid for the elusive Wimbledon title.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks back at the significant moments in his career.

US Open junior title (September 2004)

Murray won the prestigious Orange Bowl in Florida aged 12 and went to train in Spain when he was 15 to develop his game. Victory over Sergiy Stakhovsky in the final of the US Open juniors cemented his position as Britain's brightest hope.

Making a mark on grass (June 2005)

Wild card Murray reached the third round at Queen's and was in a winning position against former grand slam winner Thomas Johansson before succumbing to cramp. It was a similar story on his senior Wimbledon debut as he beat world number 16 Radek Stepanek in round two and went two sets up against David Nalbandian only to lose in five.

First ATP Tour final (September 2005)

Murray enjoyed a superb run to the final of the Thailand Open in Bangkok but found world number one Roger Federer one obstacle too far. The run took him into the top 100 for the first time.



Maiden ATP Tour title (February 2006)

Andy Roddick, above, was the Scot's first top-10 victim as he beat the world number three in the semi-finals of the SAP Open in San Jose. He then defeated Lleyton Hewitt in three sets to lift the trophy, climbing into the top 50.

Wimbledon thriller (June 2008)

Murray gave the Centre Court crowd a rollercoaster ride as he came back from two sets down to beat Richard Gasquet and reach the quarter-finals for the first time. He was well beaten by Rafael Nadal, though.

Masters magic (August 2008)

The Scot won his first Masters title in Cincinnati, beating Novak Djokovic in the final.

US Open breakthrough (September 2008)

After coming back from two sets down against Jurgen Melzer in round three of the US Open, 21-year-old Murray beat Nadal for the first time when they met in the semi-finals. Federer was a class act in the final, however.

Back-to-back titles (October 2008)

Murray's US Open heroics lifted him to number four in the world for the first time and he cemented that position by winning the Madrid Masters, and successfully defending his St Petersburg Open title.

Continued on facing page

Wimbledon 2013 spotlight

MURRAY READY TO EXORCISE GHOST OF FRED PERRY



MAJOR FORCE:
Andy Murray.

ANDY Murray will be accompanied once again by the ghost of Fred Perry when he walks through the gates of the All England Club.

The Scot may have ended Perry's reign as Britain's last male grand slam singles champion after a 76-year wait at the US Open, but until he wins Wimbledon, the name of the Stockport great, pictured right, will never be too far away.

There are plenty of reasons to believe, though, that this might just be the year when all that changes.

Of course, it has been said many times before about Murray and Tim Henman before him, but Murray returns to SW19 with two very important bits of met-alwork tucked away at home.

The 25-year-old who cried on Centre Court after defeat by

Roger Federer was a player who had never won a grand slam title, who had never beaten one of his

rivals over five sets in a major final, who still did not know if he was good enough.

The 26-year-old who takes to the court this time

will know he has achieved all those things.

Although it was his fourth grand slam final defeat, last year's Wimbledon loss to Federer was a key step in the process.

For the first time, Murray had done himself justice, winning the first set and playing well throughout.

The closing of the roof helped Federer, the master of indoor courts, and after four sets the match had got away from

Murray, but he was beaten by

arguably the best player of all time playing at a rarefied level.

Murray knew that, and instead of dropping into a slough of despair, he came back to a purple-clad Wimbledon for the Olympics three weeks later more determined than ever.

The competition suited him. In the midst of Olympic fever, he was a side act, and the raucous crowds and the chance to contribute to something bigger than his own trophy cabinet brought the best out of him.

Murray's nerve was rock solid as he beat Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals, and in the final against an admittedly weary Federer he was ruthlessly brilliant, allowing his illustrious opponent just seven games.

Murray had his Centre Court moment, climbing up to the players' box to celebrate with his family, and he desperately wants another one on July 7.

LOCAL TENNIS STORY TO TELL? CALL 023 8042 4515

Wimbledon 2013 spotlight

MURRAY QUOTES

AFTER WINNING THE US OPEN BOYS' TITLE IN 2004: "I've been compared to Tim Henman a lot and to be compared to someone who has been in the top 10 for six or seven years is great. I think I have got a chance of going all the way in tennis and that's what I want to do."

THINKING BIG IN 2005: "I want to get into the top 10 - then maybe I can get a date with Maria Sharapova!"

ON THE BRITISH MEDIA FOCUS, SPEAKING IN OCTOBER 2005: "I have watched Tim Henman go through it in the last 10 years, and I hope they [the media] are a bit nicer to me than they were to him."

AFTER SAYING HE AND KENNETH CARLSÉN "PLAYED LIKE WOMEN" AT AN EVENT IN AUCKLAND: "I'm not allowed to make a joke. It is a bit unfair how I'm treated. I thought it was a joke."

ON RECEIVING A GOOD-LUCK CALL FROM SIR SEAN CONNERY DURING WIMBLEDON 2006: "There's nothing cooler than being woken up by James Bond."

ON WHO HE WOULD BE SUPPORTING AT THE 2006 WORLD CUP: "Anyone but England."

AFTER A BACKLASH TO HIS "ANYONE BUT ENGLAND" COMMENT: "I made a joke, I don't mind whether England win or lose!"

AFTER LOSING TO ROGER FEDERER IN THE 2008 US OPEN FINAL: "I'm disappointed right now. I could have done a few more things and given myself a few more opportunities."

AFTER LOSING TO FEDERER IN THE 2010 AUSTRALIAN OPEN FINAL: "I'm getting closer (to a grand slam). My results in the grand slams would show that. I've just got to keep working hard."

AFTER DEFEAT TO RAFAEL NADAL IN THE 2010 WIMBLEDON SEMI-FINAL: "I don't feel like I played terribly."

AFTER LOSING TO NOVAK DJOKOVIC IN THE 2011 AUSTRALIAN OPEN FINAL: "He played great although I would have liked to have played better."

ON WORKING WITH NEW COACH IVAN LENDL AT THE 2012 FRENCH OPEN: "There's not been one radical change. A lot of it is minor details. But if you pick 10 small things to work on and change, that can turn into a big difference."

AFTER BEATING JO-WILFRIED TSONGA TO REACH HIS FIRST WIMBLEDON FINAL IN 2012: "It's been a great tournament so far and hopefully I can go one better. It's just a big relief."

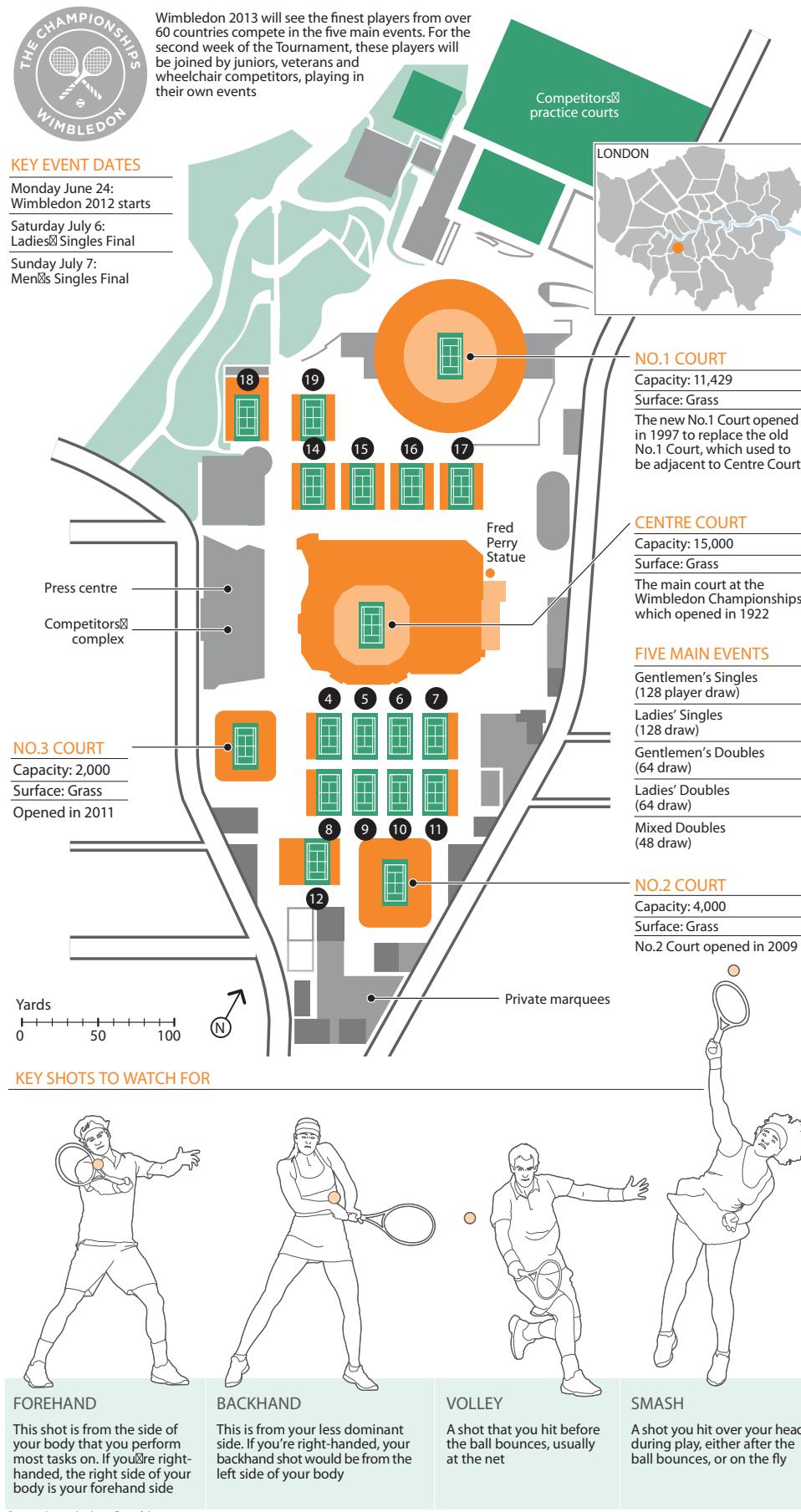
AFTER LOSING TO FEDERER IN THE FINAL: "I'm getting closer. If I wasn't emotional I guess I'm probably in the wrong sport."

FOLLOWING AN OLYMPIC FINAL WIN OVER FEDERER: "I've had a lot of questions asked about me many times. I'm just glad I managed to put on a performance I've been waiting for. To win, in the way I did, makes those losses a little bit easier to take."

AFTER DEFEATING DJOKOVIC TO WIN THE US OPEN, HIS MAIDEN GRAND SLAM, IN 2012: "It's great to have finally done it. I hope now it inspires some kids to play tennis and also takes away the notion that British tennis players choke or don't win or it's not a good sport. I am just so relieved to put this one behind me and hopefully win more."

WIMBLEDON 2013 The 127th Championships

June 24 - July 7



Press Association Graphic

MURRAY TIMELINE

Ranking milestone (May 2009)

Murray became the first British player ever to be officially ranked number three in the world on May 11. He then climbed to number two in August, albeit briefly.

King of Queen's (June 2009)

Murray reached the quarter-finals of the French Open for the first time and then justified his number one seeding by becoming the first British winner at Queen's for 71 years, his first title on grass.

Missing out in Melbourne (January 2010)

After knocking out Nadal and Marin Cilic to reach the final of the Australian Open, Murray's grand slam hopes were again dashed by Federer. The Swiss triumphed 6-3 6-4 7-6 (13/11) at Melbourne Park.

Another Melbourne final (January 2011)

Back in the Australian Open final, Murray was optimistic he could go one better than in 2010. But he suffered a 6-4 6-2 6-3 defeat against Djokovic and lost three straight first-round matches afterwards.

Nadal has Murray's measure (June-September 2011)

Murray was having his most consistent season, marked by reaching the semi-finals at every grand slam. At the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open it was the same story, though - Murray was good but not good enough to beat Nadal.

So near and yet so far (January 2012)

Under new coach Ivan Lendl, Murray produced one of his best grand slam performances in the semi-finals of the Australian Open, pushing world number one Djokovic all the way before finally losing out in five sets after almost five hours.

First Wimbledon final (July 2012)

Murray ended the 74-year wait for a British Wimbledon finalist by holding his nerve under intense pressure to defeat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, setting up a clash with Federer. He was unable to make the next step, though, losing to the Swiss in four sets.

Olympics golden moment (August 2012)

Having lost to Federer on Centre Court in the Wimbledon final, Murray bounced back with a 6-2 6-1 6-4 victory against the same opponent in the Olympic final before partnering Laura Robson to silver in the mixed doubles.

A grand slam title, at last (September 2012)

Buoyed by Olympic success, Murray reached the final of the US Open. After squandering a two-set lead to be pegged back to two-all by Djokovic, it looked as though he would fall short again. But the Scot found something extra and finally did it, winning 7-6 (12/10) 7-5 2-6 3-6 6-2.

Three slam finals in a row (January 2013)

After Wimbledon and the US Open, Murray marched through to another grand slam final at the Australian Open.

But after beating Federer in the semi-finals, the Scot was beaten 6-7 (2/7) 7-6 (7/3) 6-3 6-2 by Djokovic in the Melbourne final.

WINCHESTER CITY PENGUINS SWIMMING - SEE PAGES 36-37

Did You Know?

English t20 - most runs in history (2003-2012)

- 2209 DI Stevens (Leics/Kent)
- 2200 MW Goodwin (Sussex)
- 2083 DL Maddy (Leics/Warwicks)
- 1981 SC Moore (Lancs)
- 1968 ME Trescothick (Somerset)
- 1956 ML Pettini (Essex)
- 1938 P Mustard (Durham)
- 1871 IJL Trott (Warwicks)
- 1829 M van Jaarsveld (Kent)
- 1822 JL Denly (Msex/Kent)
- 1795 MJ Lumb (York/Hants/Notts)
- 1793 OA Shah (Msex/Essex)
- 1793 Azhar Mahmood (Kent/Lancs)
- 1768 JC Hildreth (Somerset)
- 1758 AD Brown (Surrey)
- 1755 SR Patel (Notts)
- 1753 RWT Key (Kent)
- 1740 JO Troughton (Warwicks)
- 1725 SJ Croft (Lancs)
- 1719 MR Ramprakash (Msex/Surrey)
- 1713 AW Gale (Yorkshire)
- 1624 DJ Hussey (Notts)
- 1592 HJH Marshall (Gloucs)
- 1572 MJ Prior (Sussex)
- 1532 SM Ervine (Hants)
- 1516 MA Carberry (Hants)
- 1488 J Allenby (Leics)
- 1472 VS Solanki (Worcs)
- 1457 BJ Hodge (Leics)

English t20 - highest innnings (2003-2012)

- 152* GR Napier (Essex v Sussex, Chelmsford, 2008)
- 141* CL White (Somerset v Worcestershire, New Road, 2006)
- 124* MJ Lumb (Hampshire v Essex, Ageas Bowl, 2009)
- 119 KJ O'Brien (Gloucestershire v Middlesex, Uxbridge, 2011)
- 117 MJ Prior (Sussex v Glamorgan, Hove, 2010)
- 116* GA Hick (Worcestershire v Northamptonshire, Luton, 2004)
- 116* IJ Thomas (Glamorgan v Somerset, Taunton, 2004)
- 116* CL White (Somerset v Gloucestershire, Taunton, 2006)
- 112 A Symonds (Kent v Middlesex, Maidstone, 2004)

Friends Life t20 preview ... Friends Life t20 preview

TEN YEARS OF

CHAMPS: Hampshire players celebrate Friends Life t20 Finals Day success in 2012.



HARD to believe though it might be, this season's Friends Life t20 marks the tenth anniversary of Twenty20 cricket.

When it first landed in the county cricket schedule in 2003, it was widely known across the country as 'hit and giggle', writes RORY DOLLARD.

For proponents of the concept, that was a positive description, designed to relieve the sport of any lingering image of stuffiness or one-man-and-his-dogism.

The players would do the hitting, while

the sociable hours of play, extra-curricular entertainment and frequent blasts of pop music would take care of the giggles.

Traditionalists used the phrase pejoratively, decrying the seemingly flippant nature of the new invention.

But the term quickly went out of fashion as people grasped how big a hit T20 was.

The game spread from the confines of an England and Wales Cricket Board brainstorming session to a global International Cricket Council tournament contested by 12 nations in the

space of four years.

Now it is fast becoming the dominant force in the sport – lining the pockets of players the world over, facilitating the evolution of shots such as the scoop and the ramp and being pushed as a potential Olympic discipline by the powers that be.

And all the while, the status of Twenty20 cricket has dwindled somewhat in its homeland.

The novelty value of the domestic competition has been waning year on year and, while the absence of Atomic Kitten at Finals Day cannot soberly be

Friends Winner

considered a bad thing, it is disappointing to cast a懷疑的 eye on the fact that county cricket's most valuable ticket in town is the hottest ticket in town.

And so, the ECB hopes that the year will be the last year of the decline of cricket given its own poor performance in the season.

From next year, the game will be spread throughout the country in a bid to rejuvenate the sport.

The thinking is that the quality of matches will improve and the game will be more competitive, with more teams and more matches.

... Friends Life t20 preview ... Friends Life t20

OF TWENTY20



Life t20 ers 2012



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and saving them pre-

Friday nights, the Friends Life t20 will once again become a cherished event and fans will be able to attend matches on an "appointment to view" basis.

The unpredictable nature of the British summer was also a part of the decision-making process.

A fortnight of unseasonal rain can all but ruin a county's prospects under the current model.

But the change nevertheless represents a mighty risk.

For a start, it will bring a swift end to the travelling circus of Twenty20 talent that travels the world from one competi-

tion to the next.

This year's contingent of imports includes the likes of Shaun Tait (Essex), Scott Styris (Sussex), Andre Russell (Worcestershire), Cameron White (Northamptonshire), Dan Christian (Gloucestershire) and Shakib-al-Hasan (Leicestershire).

That list may be missing the major global stars of years gone by – any T20 competition that does not boast Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard or ex-Hampshire man Shahid Afridi can justifiably consider itself bereft – but only because counties have already started the move

away from expensive short-term signings.

From next year, teams will have to learn to live with T20 as part of their week-by-week schedule; a season-long commitment, not a month-long fling.

In the meantime, there is the small matter of 97 matches under the current structure – 90 of which take place between next Wednesday and July 31.

By the time the four best sides converge on Edgbaston for the well-loved Finals Day format, we should have a good idea how much appetite there is for another ten years of Twenty20.

Did You Know?

English t20 - most wickets in history (2003-2012)

- 103 Azhar Mahmood (Kent/Surrey)
- 101 Yasir Arafat (Sus/Kent/Surrey)
- 95 AJ Hall (Kent/Northants)
- 87 RDB Croft (Glamorgan)
- 85 SJ Cook (Kent/Middlesex)
- 82 AD Mascarenhas (Hants)
- 81 NM Carter (Warwicks)
- 80 JC Tredwell (Kent)
- 79 TJ Murtagh (Warwicks/Surrey)
- 79 RM Pyrah (Yorkshire)
- 76 GM Andrew (Som/Worcs)
- 75 AC Thomas (Somerset)
- 73 DG Cork (Lancs/Hants)
- 73 GR Breese (Durham)
- 72 G Keedy (Lancashire)
- 71 SR Patel (Notts)
- 70 GR Napier (Essex)
- 68 CW Henderson (Middlesex)
- 67 GJ Batty (Surrey)
- 67 CT Tremlett (Hants/Surrey)
- 64 SI Mahmood (Lancashire)
- 64 RJ Kirtley (Sussex)
- 64 DD Masters (Essex)
- 64 DJ Pattinson (Notts)
- 63 M Kartik (Middlesex/Somerset)
- 62 G Chapple (Lancashire)
- 62 AG Botha
- 61 DA Cosker (Glamorgan)
- 61 ND Doshi (Surrey/Derby)
- 60 SP Kirby (Gloucs/Somerset)
- 60 DR Briggs (Hants)

English t20 - best bowling in history (2003-2012)

- 6-5 AV Suppiah Somerset v Glamorgan, Cardiff, 2011)
- 6-16 TG Southee (Essex v Glamorgan, Chelmsford, 2011)
- 6-21 AJ Hall Northamptonshire v Worcestershire, 2008)
- 6-24 TJ Murtagh (Surrey v Middlesex, Lord's, 2005)
- 5-6 PD Collingwood (Durham v Northamptonshire, Chester-le-Street, 2011)
- 5-11 Mushtaq Ahmed (Sussex v Essex, Hove, 2005)
- 5-13 M Kartik (Middlesex v Essex, Lord's, 2007)
- 5-13 AB McDonald (Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire, Trent Bridge, 2010)
- 5-14 AD Mascarenhas (Hampshire v Sussex, Hove, 2004)

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



HAMPSHIRE results 2013

APRIL

10-13 Leicestershire (h) LVCC2
Hants 454-7 dec (J Vince 148, G Bailey 93, S Ervine 69, A Wheater 56no), Leics 143 (J Tomlinson 4-23) & 182-5. **Match drawn**

17-19 Loughborough (h) FR Hampshire 377-4 (J Vince 114, A Wheater 102no, J Adams 96) & 189-1 (M Carberry 118m J Adams 61no), Loughborough 163 (D Griffiths 5-68) & 245 (J Vince 5-41). **Won by 155 runs**

24-27 Worcestershire (h) LVCC2
Hants 500-9 dec (J Adams 219no, M Carberry 62, J Vince 52), Worcs 206 & 252.

Won by an innings and 42 runs

29-May 2 Essex (a) LVCC2
Hampshire 197 (S Ervine 60) & 199 (J Vince 67, L Dawson 52), Essex 254 & 143-6.

Hampshire lost by four wickets

MAY

3 Essex (a) CB40 (FL)
Essex 244-7, Hampshire 245-1 (J Vince 129no)

Hampshire won by nine wickets

5 Scotland (h) CB40
Scotland 192-7, Hampshire 194-5 (J Adams 51, L Dawson 54no).

Hampshire won by nine wickets

6 Surrey (a) CB40
Hampshire 228 (S Ervine 63), Surrey 229-1.

Hampshire lost nine wickets

8-11 Gloucestershire (a) LVCC2
Hampshire 274 (J Adams 138, D Briggs 54) & 120-4, Gloucestershire 400-4 dec. **Drawn**

19 Durham Dynamos (h) CB40
Durham 241-8 (C Wood 3-37, D Griffiths 3-42), Hampshire 242-5 (M Carberry 96, J Adams 67)

Hampshire won by 5 wickets

22 Lancashire (h) CB40 (FL)
Lancashire 244-6, Hampshire 250-1 (M Carberry 150no, J Adams 66no)
Hampshire won by 9 wickets

23-26 Lancashire (h) LVCC2
Lancashire 295 (D Balcombe 5-104) & 373-6, Hampshire 258 (G Bailey 84, L Dawson 55). **Drawn**

29-1 Northants (a) LVCC2
Hampshire 206 (L Dawson 76),
Northants 425-9 (J Tomlinson 3-75).
Drawn

JUNE

5-8 Kent (h) LVCC2
Hampshire 455 (N McKenzie 146, S Ervine 86, J Adams 65) & 207-3 dec (L Dawson 87no, J Vince 79no), Kent 321 & 298-8. **Drawn**

12-15 Gloucestershire (h) LVCC2
Glos 410 (D Mascarenhas 4-61),
Hampshire 212 (D Mascarenhas 41).
Lost by 198 runs

19 Derbyshire (h) YB40
Hampshire 277 (M Carberry 53, A Wheater 70), Derbyshire 231-8 (S Tanvir 3-42). **Hants won by 46 runs.**

FRIENDS LIFE TWENTY20

MIDDLESEX

Captain: Neil Dexter.

Overseas: Adam Voges.

Last season: Fifth in group.

Prospects: Middlesex have a forgettable recent record in the shortest form of the game but have a batting order to contend with in the form of Eoin Morgan, Voges, Paul Stirling and Joe Denly. Chris Rogers' Ashes call-up denies them another big tallent at the top of the order.

ESSEX

Captain: James Foster.

Overseas: Hamish Rutherford, Shaun Tait.

Last season: Quarter-finals.

Prospects: Among the favourites to top the group due to the presence of some serious T20 talent including Owais Shah, Ryan ten Doeschate and Graham Napier. Will look to win games through weight of runs but Australia paceman Tait adds some star quality to the bowling attack.

SUSSEX

Captain: Michael Yardy.

Overseas: Scott Styris, Dwayne Smith.

Last season: Semi-finals.

Prospects: A team that often performs beyond the sum of its parts, but Sussex have had a poor time in this year's Yorkshire Bank 40 campaign. England's Luke Wright will be key but they could come up short this time.

KENT

Captain: James Tredwell.

Overseas: Brendan Nash.

Last season: Fourth in group.

Prospects: A distinctly unfashionable squad that has nevertheless shown a handy habit of getting the job done in limited-overs cricket this year. Nash is an unspectacular overseas pro but he, Rob Key, Darren Stevens and Tredwell have bundles of experience and will be hardy competitors.

HAMPSHIRE

Captain: Dimitri Mascarenhas.

Overseas: Sohail Tanvir.

Last season: Winners.

Prospects: As reigning champions and also victors in 2010, Hampshire will approach the competition as

Ponting a player for the ages

RICKY Ponting's retirement in October will finally bring to a definitive end one of the most entertaining and remarkable of cricketing careers.

Ponting will be at The Ageas Bowl next Wednesday for Surrey's t20 opener at defending champions Hampshire.

His career is to end with his season at Surrey followed by Mumbai Indians' Champions League campaign – but it will be in the international arena where he lives longest in the memory.

In a career spanning 168 Tests – an Australian record he shares with Steve Waugh – he saw and did more than he might possibly have imagined when he first donned the Baggy Green as a precocious 20-year-old.

His tally of 13,378 runs at 51.85 makes him the second highest run-scorer in the history of the game, behind only Sachin Tendulkar, and his record of 48 Test wins as captain was a record until overtaken by South Africa's Graeme Smith with 50 to date.

But there is more to Ponting's tale than the mere mechanical accumulation of runs and records.

'Punter', as he is universally known, is an authentic character in an arena fast following other sports in its tendency to churn out interchangeables over individuals.

In 1999 he was forced to confront a "problem with alcohol" after picking up a black eye during a fight in Sydney and earning a suspension in the process – an incident recently recalled to the memory by David Warner's off-field antics at the Champions Trophy.

As it was, that proved a relatively minor blip for Ponting. But while his

vast talent meant he was always likely to earn back his place in the side, it spoke volumes for his mental resolve and magnetic personality that within three years he was chosen ahead of the unblemished Adam Gilchrist to captain Australia's one-day side.

Although ruthless and respected as a leader, Ponting never mislaid his devilish streak and as Test captain he did not so much cope with flashpoints as invite them.

Yet amid the welter of achievements, nobody need ever remind Ponting that he did not have everything his own way.

Few things mean more to an Australian cricketer than the Ashes and Ponting has more than his fair share of disappointments against the English.

In 2005 he was both bloodied and beaten as Michael Vaughan's side ended a 16-year period of Australian dominance in the iconic series.

Revenge came in the return series Down Under, a 5-0 whitewash that restored normality for a side that had become used to sweeping aside all and sundry under Ponting's captaincy.

But while the likes of Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath, Justin Langer and Damien Martyn used that moment to fashion the perfect exit – with Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden not far behind – Ponting took another route.

Instead of joining in with the orgy of retirements, he threw himself wholeheartedly into the role of elder statesman for a side in transition.

It was not always easy and would ultimately yield two more defeats to the old enemy – including an almost

unthinkable 3-1 reverse on home soil in 2010/11.

First he was forced to come to terms with life back in the ranks after relinquishing the captaincy, then he had to confront a stark new reality where Australia were no longer the undisputed world leaders they had been for the entirety of his senior career.

Finally, he was faced with a terminal decline in form.

But through all those trials, Ponting's sheer hunger shone brighter than ever before. Not once did his continued presence in the side feel like a vanity project or a pity party.

He was fighting with all the grit and determination of his pomp, gunning for the scores that would give him one more chance to win back the urn against England next summer.

A brief but brilliant renaissance against India at the turn of the year, including knocks of 134 and 221, rekindled hopes of another tour of Ashes duty, but despite his presence in England this summer he has insisted there will be no return.

Surrey have made use of his leadership and influence as they attempt to steady a ship rocked by the events surrounding batsman Torn Maynard's death last year, while his four Championship innings have brought 295 runs at a handy 98.33.

While a mere postscript, the combination helps sum up a man whose uncommonly high standards were matched only by his rare skill.

Overseas: Michael Klinger, Dan Christian

Last season: Quarter-final

Prospects: Director of cricket John Bracewell is aiming high and all-rounder Christian is a short-form specialist. Five wins from six completed Yorkshire Bank 40 games provide encouraging signs.

NORTHANTS

Captain: Alex Wakely

Overseas: Cameron White

Last season: Sixth in group

Prospects: The Steelbacks are also going well in the YB40 but success has eluded them in this competition

SURREY

Captain: Gareth Batty.

Overseas: Ricky Ponting, Glenn Maxwell.

Last season: Sixth in group.

Prospects: Factor in the recent sacking of Chris Adams as director of cricket, the club's poor recent record in Twenty20 and the poor start to the season and the Brown Caps look in a state of turmoil. But amid the negatives, the likes of Jason Roy, Jade Dernbach and

GLAMORGAN

Captain: Marcus North

Overseas: Marcus North, Nathan McCullum

Last season: Fifth in group

Prospects: The loss of injured overseas player Dirk Nannes will be a blow, though McCullum is a canny replacement, and despite the reliable Jim Allenby their chances appear slim.

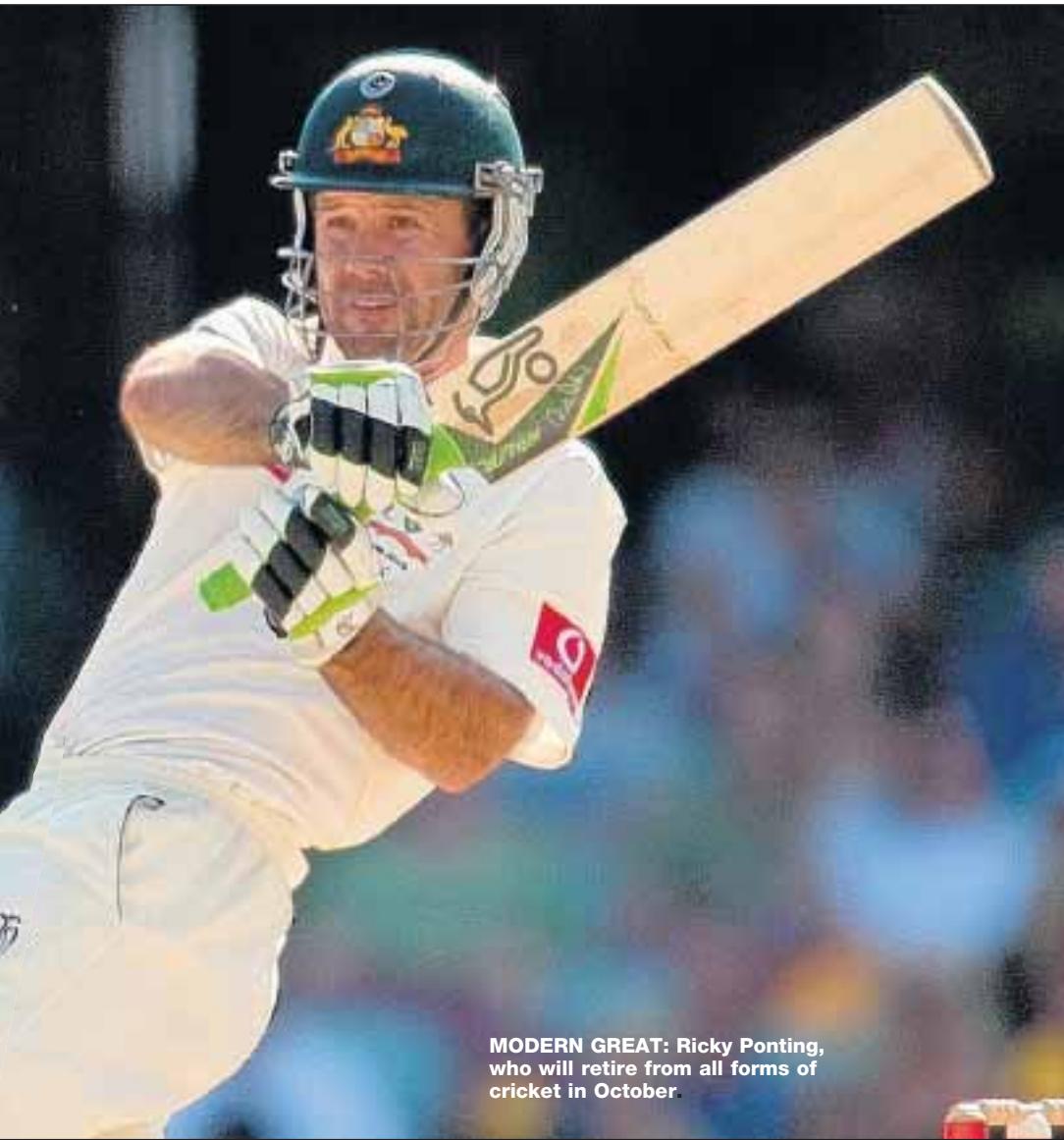
Gloucestershire

Captain: Michael Klinger

FOR THE LATEST HAMPSHIRE AND LOCAL

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

TEAM BY TEAM GUIDE



HAMPSHIRE fixtures 2013

JUNE

- 22 Durham Dynamos (a)CB40
- 26 Surrey (h) T20(FL)
- 28 Essex Eagles (a) T20(FL)

JULY

- 5 Sussex Sharks (a)T20 (FL)
- 8-11 Glamorgan (a)T20
- 12 Sussex Sharks (h)T20 (FL)
- 14 Middlesex (Richmond)T20
- 15-18 Kent (a)LVCC2
- 19 Surrey (a)T20 (FL)
- 21 Kent Spitfires (h)T20
- 26 Essex Eagles (h)T20 (FL)
- 29 Kent Spitfires (a)T20 (FL)
- 31 Middlesex Panthers (h) . .T20 (FL)

AUGUST

- 2-5 Glamorgan (h)LVCC2
- 6 Bangladesh A (h)FR
- 6-8 T20 quarter finals
- 11 Essex Eagles (h)CB40
- 13 Scotland (a)CB40
- 15 Surrey (h)CB40 (FL)
- 17 T20 Finals Day (Edgbaston)
- 20 Lancashire (a)CB40 (FL)
- 26 Derbyshire Falcons (a)CB40
- 28-31 Lancashire (Southport) ..LVCC2

SEPTEMBER

- 3-6 Northamptonshire (h)LVCC2
- 7/9 CB40 semi-finals
- 11-14 Worcestershire (a)LVCC2
- 17-20 Leicestershire (a)LVCC2
- 21 CB40 final,Lord's
- 24-27 Essex (h)LVCC2

over the years. Progressing from the group would be a respectable return.

SOMERSET

Captain: Marcus Trescothick

Overseas: Alviro Petersen

Last season: Semi-final

Prospects: The last four years have seen the famed nearly men lose in three finals and a semi-final. Their time must surely come, and their batting order has firepower throughout.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Captain: Daryl Mitchell

Overseas: Thilan Samaraweera,

Andre Russell

Last season: Quarter-final

Prospects: Russell replaces hernia victim Jacob Oram and the big-hitting West Indies all-rounder adds to an improving squad. They have never made finals day, though, and competition will again be fierce.

WARWICKSHIRE

Captain: Jim Troughton

Overseas: Jeetan Patel

Last season: Fourth in group

Prospects: Consistent quarter-finalists until the last two years, this year would be the perfect time to push on again with finals day being held at Edgbaston. An army of all-

rounders headed up by Rikki Clarke and Chris Woakes will be key to their chances.

DERBYSHIRE

Captain: Wayne Madsen

Overseas: Albie Morkel, Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

Last season: Fifth in group.

Prospects: The acquisitions of Chanderpaul and Morkel will give Derbyshire some much-needed experience in their batting line-up although their bowling may prove to be a cause for concern.

DURHAM

Captain: Dale Benkenstein

Overseas: TBC

Last season: Third in group.

Prospects: Durham have started the LV= County Championship and Yorkshire Bank 40 in fine fashion and while their seam attack is among the best in the country, no overseas signings to date could hamper their chances of qualification from the group.

LANCASHIRE

Captain: Glen Chapple

Overseas: Simon Katich, Mitchell McClenaghan.

Last season: Fourth in group.

Prospects: Despite possessing a small squad, the Red Rose will no doubt be boosted by their overseas signings, especially McClenaghan, who has impressed for New Zealand in their recent one-day international series against England and the Champions Trophy.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Captain: Josh Cobb

Overseas: Shakib Al Hasan, Joe Burns.

Last season: Sixth in group.

Prospects: Leicestershire went from winners of the competition in 2011 to collecting the wooden spoon in their group 12 months later. The signing of highly-rated all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will give the side some balance.

NOTTS

Captain: Chris Read

Overseas: David Hussey

Last season: Quarter-final.

Prospects: With an enviable blend of youth and experience, as well as several international players in their ranks, Nottinghamshire will be hoping this will finally be their year after suffering defeats in the knockout rounds of the last four competitions.

YORKSHIRE

Captain: Andrew Gale

Overseas: TBC

Last season: Finalists.

Prospects: The White Rose lost just once en route to the final last season and while they have yet to bring in an overseas player, they should have enough numbers in their ranks to contend with a busy summer schedule.

Local Cricket Spotlight

MILTON AIM AT BIG BOWL NIGHT

NEW MILTON sent a few sparks flying when they toppled near neighbours and 2012 cup winners Bashley (Rydal) out of the Southern Electric t20 Cup a fortnight ago.

Tomorrow afternoon, they are up for another challenge – with current Premier Division leaders Ventnor in their sights in front of another potentially big Fernhill crowd.

"We had over 400 people watch the Bashley cup tie. It was a real festival occasion, with music and a BBQ laid on," enthused skipper Ryan Beck.

"The boys are really up for this and we know if we can beat Ventnor we're just one win away from a night under the Ageas Bowl floodlights in the final."

Beck acknowledged the Bashley win as the best day of his captaincy.

"We were awesome and annihilated them. It was a massive victory, one we'd love to repeat tomorrow," he said.

Ventnor, though, had a taste of Ageas Bowl action a few years ago and, Adam Wilson apart, bring a full strength side across to play New Milton.

New Milton: Toby Jackson, Dan Loader, Tom Prodomo, Lee Beck, George Watts, James Park, Nick Elliott, Nick Park, Ryan Beck, Nick Gargaro, Mark House.

Ventnor: Hilsum, Head, George, Mills, Westhorpe, Cheek,



Ridley, Miller, H Calloway, Holmes, C Calloway, Snell.

The Sarisbury Athletic-Lymington tie gets equal billing as the quarter-final match of the round.

Lymington, who have scraped narrow wins over Portsmouth and Hook & Newnham Basics in the past two rounds, really will go into the lion's den at The Hollow, where Sarisbury may possess a bit too much firepower for the New Forest side.

Dave Banks continues to bang the drum about Sarisbury Athletic being a Premier Division club – sadly, their ground doesn't satisfy the SPL's accreditation requirements at the moment – and he may get another opportunity to underline his side's potential tomorrow.

Lymington are not batting well at the moment and could easily come unstuck against last season's beaten semi-finalists.

Sarisbury Athletic: Banks, Norris, Rawlins, Hammond, Journeaux, Bond, Lovett, Orr, Miller, Ingram, Jewell.

Two miles down the road, another of the giant killers – Langley Manor – go into action against Burridge.

The Manor have knocked out Basingstoke & North Hants and Alton so far, both at Knellers lane. Tomorrow, Burridge have home advantage.

Burridge have never reached the quarter-final stage before, but are putting a full strength side into the mix.

Burridge: Rick Ankers, Shu Choudhury, Scott Mills, Richard Kenway, Derek Kenway, Geoff Dods, Paul Ancell, Jamie Rood, Greg Thew, Sujit Wickramasinghe, Sam Lavery and Seth Jackson.

Langley Manor: G Noble, R Noble, Renders, Harris, Taylor, Smith, Peters, Brookland, Budd, Wateridge, Brown.

It will be the biggest shock of the lot if Old Tauntonians & Romsey knock out South Wilts at Bemerton – but the red faced Salisbury club has a poor t20 Cup record and again have key players missing tomorrow, including Ryan Burl and Tom Morton.

South Wilts: J Hayward, E Abel, Pain, J Cranch, R Franklin, S Warner, R Pittman, D Ducillier, T Cowley, T Bolam, Riddle.

OTS & Romsey: S Smith, R Newman, P Newman, J Brown, P Longland, W Edwards, D Mogg, M Trodd, J Welch, S Shapland, G Flack.

Porter helps Basingstoke hit the top

GRAHAM PORTER'S five-wicket match-winning haul for Basingstoke & North Hants against Hursley Park last week sent the former Wimbledon bowler on a pleasant trip down memory lane.

"My first five-fer since July 2006 when I was playing for Taunton St Andrew's in the West of England Premier League," he fondly recalled.

"I enjoyed an amazing fortnight, taking 7-20 against Keynsham and then six wickets against Bristol West Indians a week later."

Porter played his early cricket at May's Bounty before moving to the West Country and then Wimbledon, for whom he took 19 wickets in the SW19 club's 2011 Ryman Surrey Championship winning summer.

He didn't play last season but, when he plays, Porter's bowling certainly gives Basingstoke's attack a cutting edge – as his 5-16 top-order return against Hursley Park proved.

The 54-run victory at The Quarters propelled Basingstoke to the Southern Electric Premier Division 2 summit.

It wasn't all down to Porter because Mo Rizwan smashed as quick-fire 76 before Basingstoke fell away to 199 all out.

"We ought to have got about 240, but Hursley collapsed from 68-1 to 145 all out," said Basingstoke skipper Dan Coombs.

"We have had a great start and that is now five wins on the trot.

"Our target at the start of the season was to win the league and it is now in our own hands.

"Our aim now is to try and build a gap at the top, but I am sure now every team will be gunning for us as we are top. It is not going to be easy we just have to make sure we stay focused in every game."

Cup classic

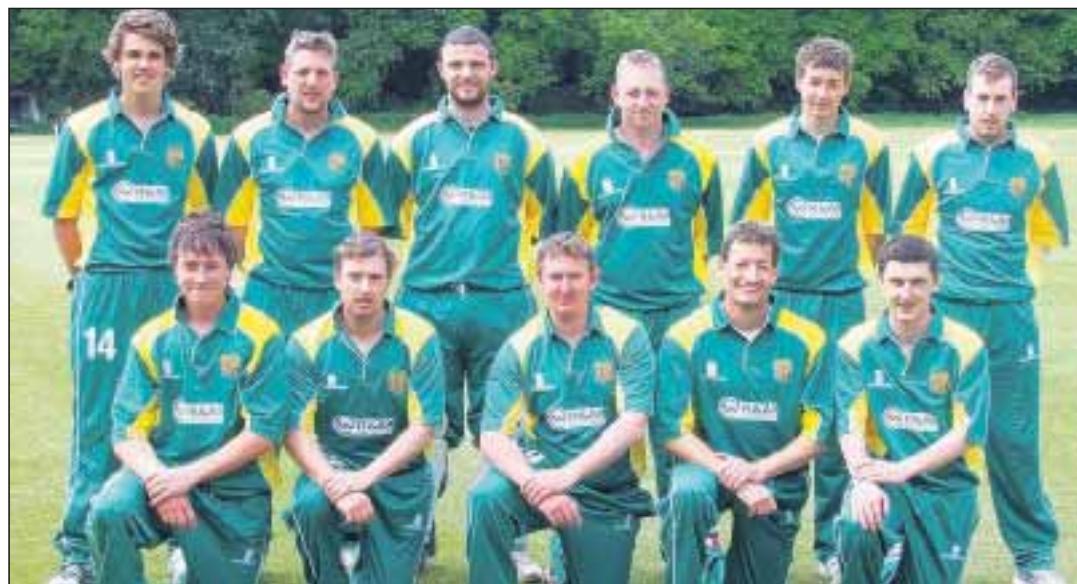
THERE'S a bumper night of twenty20 cup cricket locally on Monday evening, 6.15pm.

The New Forest CCA President's Cup semi-finals feature Calmore Sports against New Milton at Loperwood Park, and Lymington v Mudeford at the Sports Ground.

The final is at Bashley (Rydal) on Friday July 12.

In the Tichborne Trophy 3rd round, Owlesbury play Sparsholt, St Cross Symondians host Compton & Chandler's Ford, and Tichborne Park take on Easton & Martry Worthy.

The final is at St Cross Symondians on August 1.



GIANT KILLERS: New Milton (left-right) Standing: Toby Jackson, Dan Loader, Tom Prodomo, Lee Beck, George Watts, James Park. Front: Nick Elliott, Nick Park, Ryan Beck, Nick Gargaro, Mark House.



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Local Cricket Spotlight

It's tight at the top

HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE
by Mike Vimpany

FOUR POINTS separated County Division 1 top dogs Waterlooville and Ellingham going into today's scheduled seventh round of Hampshire League matches.

Ville were due to visit St Cross Symondians III and Ellingham play at fourth placed Locks Heath's Warsash Road ground.

Waterlooville went on a 346-run spree against Midhurst, with South African left-hander Byron Haycock, who played for Rochdale

COUNTY DIVISION 1					
P	W	L	Tot	Ave	
Waterlooville	5	5	0	116	23.20
Ellingham	5	5	0	112	22.40
Alton II	4	3	1	79	19.75
* Locks Heath	5	4	1	91	18.20
Portchester	5	4	1	89	17.80
Ventnor II	5	3	2	83	16.60
Rowledge II	4	2	2	58	14.50
Hook & N Basics II	6	3	3	86	14.33
Shrewton	6	3	3	85	14.17
Ryde	6	3	3	84	14.00

in the semi-professional Central Lancashire League last season, blasting an unbeaten 152 – his third CD1 century of the season and his second 150-plus score.

Alex Lamont bashed 91 off 70 balls as the Ville raced to 346-5 and later bowled their West Sussex guests out for 147, with Jon Hudson taking a hat-trick.

Waterlooville may (and do) score lots of runs, but for entertainment value Ellingham are the team to watch in the HL.

They thrive on exciting finishes and Fareham & Crofton's visit to windswept Picket Post was another game they'll talk about in the bar for weeks to come.

Ellingham might have felt pretty safe after posting 265-9 (Luke Cornish 4-52) off a rain-trimmed 45 overs, but openers Ed White (66) and Tom Kent (65) gave chase and, with Luke Gould cracking a breezy 70, the visitors stayed up with the run rate.

When Chris Davey hit three sixes in his unbeaten 28 – including one off the first ball of the last over – it looked as though Fareham might snatch victory but Ellingham took a couple of wickets in the last two overs as the visitors fell agonisingly short at 262-5.

Ellingham's total had earlier been underpinned by one-time Bournemouth opener Chris Elward, playing his first competitive game for 15 years and scoring an unbeaten 103!

Elward was helping Ellingham out as several of the team were at the Isle of Wight Festival.

But, though he ached for several days afterwards, Elward said how much he enjoyed playing again – though he wouldn't be at Locks

Wobble has got to stop

FAREHAM & Crofton are anxious to arrest a four-match losing run when they host struggling County Division 1 rivals Easton & Martyr Worthy at Bath Lane in today's Saturday clash.

"They enjoyed a bright start to the campaign, beating Old Basing and Hook & Newnham Basics II, but have lost their last four against Gosport Borough, Ryde, Locks Heath and Ellingham, the latter two defeats being close run affairs.

"We didn't perform at Gosport and Ryde are probably the best side we've played, but we came very close to beating both Locks Heath and Ellingham, who are in the



top four," reflects skipper Luke Gould.
Fareham & Crofton pic-

tured left to right – Standing: Luke Cornish, Danny Durant, Ed White,

James Headen, Ben Kissane, Jon Tucker, Tom Kent, Gary Wylde.. Front:

Charlie Stubbs, Luke Gould, Chris Davey.
Picture by Simon Rowley

Heath today!

Elward watched Ellingham openers Jamie McPherson (45) and Stuart Layton (23) put 60 on the board before he came to the crease. "It was all a bit strange being out in the middle again after all those years, but I took my time and, once I middled a few, I felt pretty good," he smiled.

Pretty good indeed: a six and 18 fours later, Elward had completed his first century in 15 years – at the first time of asking!

"I remember I had a great season in 1999, scoring three centuries and topping the old Southern League batting averages.

"Those were the days," he laughed.

Elward wasn't so sure he enjoyed fielding so much.

"The ball rockets across the Ellingham outfield, so I decided to hide out of the way at third-man – but I didn't succeed!" he added.

With Alton's game at Rowledge washed out, Locks Heath were able to close within eight points of third spot – but their

one-wicket win at Ryde was a close run thing.

Back from Chichester University, Cameron Mitchell made 62 for Ryde, but, with Jon Richardson taking 4-27, the Islanders were in some difficulty at 166-7.

Ash Goldsmith (35) and Ben Gregory (25) retrieved the situation and Ryde finished with 235-9.

Locks Heath's run chased ebbed and flowed, Mike Boyd (28) and Scott Jones (21) providing at 45-run launch pad, which Richardson (37), Alex Adams (37) and Liam

Matt Donaldson (52) and Andy Byett (57) made half-centuries in OB's 164 response, while Hungerford completed a fine day's work with a 5-44 return.

Easton & Martyr Worthy's home match with Gosport Borough was rained off – a fate St Cross Symondians III probably wished had happened to them after a nine-wicket thrashing at Ventnor.

A century fifth-wicket stand between Sharath Ranjan (66) and Kelvin Lockwood (70) was the sole high-spot of the third's long haul visit to Ventnor, who gleefully chased down a 203-run target in the Steephill bowl.

St Cross were 51-4 when the pair came together, but the innings fell apart from 173-4, the last six wickets falling for 30 runs, four of them

to newly appointed IWCB Under-17 captain and prospect Toby Corbin (4-39), who was making his Ventnor debut.

There was no danger of the St Cross team missing the evening ferry home – George Hatt (90) and Ben Woodhouse (81) sharing an 182-run opening

stand as Ventnor raced to a nine-wicket victory with 17 overs to spare.

Newly promoted Shrewton's 166 (Joel Sutherland 4-31) proved just too many for Lymington, who were dismissed for 147 (Lee Moores 36).

Purbrook remain anchored to the CD1 basement after Hook & Newnham Basics II beat them by two wickets with four balls to spare at The Heath.

Purbrook's fifth straight defeat continues to leave them as the only side yet to get off the mark with a win.

They began comfortably enough with Australian John Cunningham (35) and James Holder (25) easing them to 63-1, but four quick wickets fell, leaving Hampshire Under-15 prospect Josh McCoy (45) to rebuild the innings.

But, with Colin Lye (3-37) and Kishore Parmar (3-29) creating inroads, Purbrook fell away to 170 all out.

Mid-table Hook were going okay while Joe Allnutt (42) and Matt McNally (43) were at the crease, but Josh's father, the evergreen Graham McCoy (3-16) put a different perspective things as Hook dropped from 155-5.

Keith Lovelock was never flustered, though, and guided Hook across the line.

CHRIS ELWARD



Moggeridge (33) improved. At 131-3, Locks Heath were nicely placed; at 190-8 after a four-wicket burst by Ben Wadmore (4-37) it wasn't so straightforward.

Jack Paskins (33 not out) and Dan O'Neil (15) added precious runs before Steve Ricketts celebrated his first team debut with the winning runs – off the very last ball, Locks Heath getting home at 238-9 ... just!

Portchester, beaten just once, put the Old Basing bowling to the sword – Richie Locke, pictured, cracking 129 and Lee Hungerford 59 not out in a 253-5 score-line at Cams Hill.



RICHIE LOCKE

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE LOCAL CRICKET NEWS

Local Cricket Spotlight



JULY 1991: Lyndhurst CC (left to right) standing: Brian Clark, Mark Goodacre, Jan Hanns, Robin Wintle, Rob Coles and John Harris. Front: Malcolm John, Rob Jones, Kevin Mitchell, Bob Zanetti and Ian Watson.

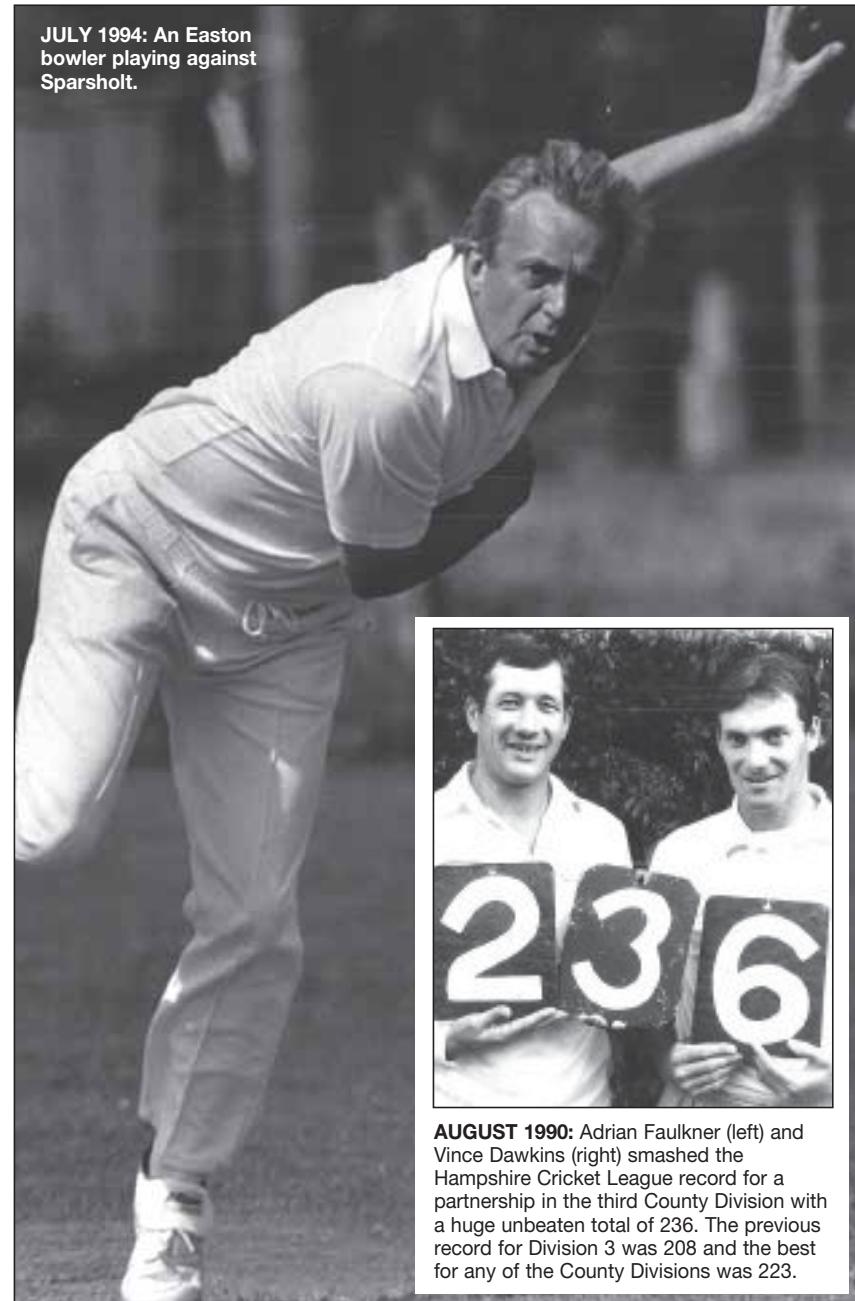
SEPTEMBER 1996: Milford CC. Left to right, standing: Sid Strong, Robin Crumby, Peter Crumby, Neil Pardoe, Stuart Slade, Darren Jones and Steve Thomas. Seated: Tim Hartwell, Ron Wilkins, Rob Butler, Mike Wensley-Smith, Matt Dowding and Ben Moir.



JUNE 1996: Easton & Martyr Worthy CC. Left to right, standing: Shaun Green, Trevor Yeates, Brent Fleming, Alan Green, Martin Hall and Dave Purse. Front: Brian Neville, Nigel Greenwood, Andy Birch, Steve Green, Carl Shankland and Bryn Holland.



AUGUST 1996: Ellingham CC. Left to right, standing: Alistair Redfern, Jason Thake, Brian New, Nick Berry, Tony Starks, and Sean Rogers. Front: Ken Drinkwater, Jason Edwards, Ken Henderson, Vince Dawkins and Paul Rogers.



JULY 1994: An Easton bowler playing against Sparsholt.



AUGUST 1990: Adrian Faulkner (left) and Vince Dawkins (right) smashed the Hampshire Cricket League record for a partnership in the third County Division with a huge unbeaten total of 236. The previous record for Division 3 was 208 and the best for any of the County Divisions was 223.

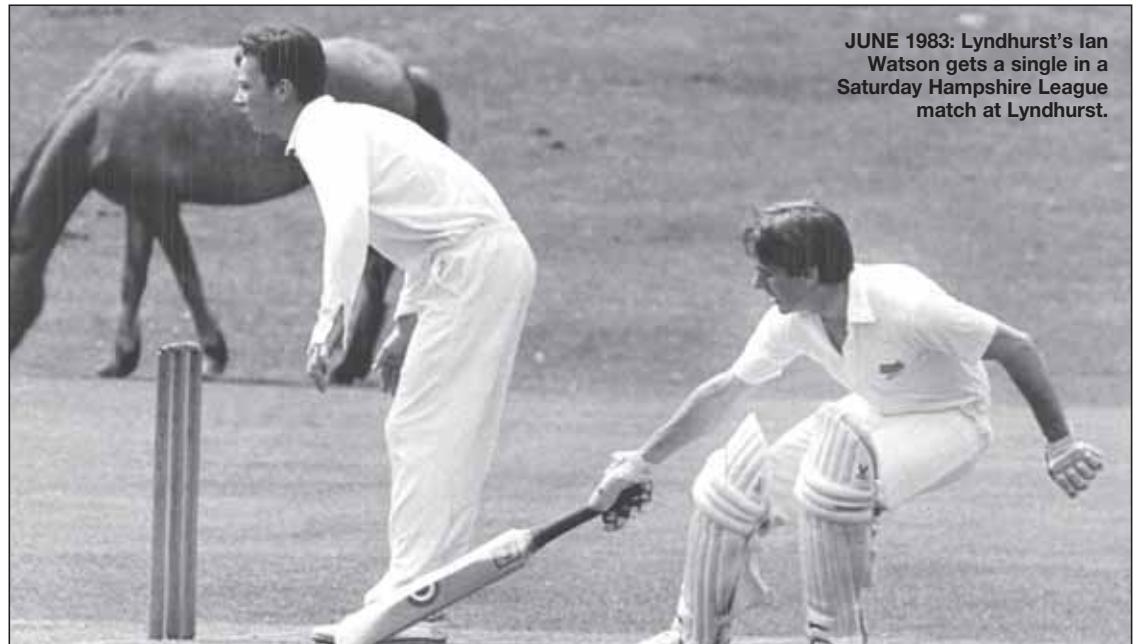


JULY 1984: Lyndhurst C.C. Captain Geoff Pooten receives the Sydney Wyatt cup from Don Osmond.

Local Cricket Spotlight



JULY 1984: Lyndhurst CC Captain Geoff Pooten receives the Sydney Wyatt cup from Mr Frank Robinson.



JUNE 1983: Lyndhurst's Ian Watson gets a single in a Saturday Hampshire League match at Lyndhurst.



JULY 1927:
Opening bats
for Esso in
their match
against
Hampshire P.
Toomes and I.
DeWolf.

JULY 1987: Captains Kevin James of Hampshire 2nd and Graham Smith of Esso toss up before a match.



DECEMBER 1985: Lyndhurst CC – winners of the Waterside Windows Indoor Cricket Championships are seen pictured with the sponsor, Mr Sexton, and his wife.

JULY 1994:
Easton &
Martyr Worthy
CC. Left to
right, stand-
ing: Richard
Butcher,
Trevor Yates,
Dave Moyes,
Ian Butcher,
Dave Birch,
Alan Pond
and Steve
Green.
Seated: Mark
Millet, Pete
Bottrell, Alan
Green and
Andy Birch.



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	30 Adinkerke via Eurotunnel	£39.00
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Horse Racing

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ASCOT SPECIALIST: Society Rock.

ROYAL ASCOT

Going: Good to Firm

2.30

CHESHAM STAKES (LISTED) (CLASS 1).
£60,000 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value
£34,026.

1 3 BERKSHIRE (IRE) (36) P Cole 9 3 J Crowley 21
2 BUNKER (IRE) (30) R Hannan 9 3 R Hughes 7
3 CALRISSIAN (IRE) A Jarvis 9 3 K Fallon 20
4 CITIZEN KAINE (IRE) J Hughes 9 3 Cathy Gannon 19
5 060 FLYING ATHONER (IRE) (21) P McEntee 9 3 Kisty Milczarek 4
6 331 FREEDOM SQUARE (IRE) (13) J S Bolger (IRE) 9 3 K J Manning 16
7 3 FRIENDSHIP (IRE) (20) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 3 J P O'Brien 9
8 53 KHEE SOCIETY (9) P Evans 9 3 A Kirby 14
9 461 KNOW YOUR NAME (9) P Evans 9 3 W Carson 1
10 1 LONE WARRIOR (IRE) (11) P Evans 9 3 T Quigley 18
11 131 MASTER CARPENTER (IRE) (32) B Millman 9 3 A Atzeni 10
12 45123 SCARGILL (32) B Ellison 9 3 R L Moore 2
13 SHEPHERD GATE (USA) J S Moore 9 3 W M Lordan 15
14 02 SJACK LAYDEN (8) BF D Brown 9 3 J P Spencer 5
15 1 SOMEWHAT (USA) (6) M Johnston 9 3 J Fanning 3
16 STREET FORCE (USA) (8) C Brittain 9 3 J Doyle 13
17 5 AESTE FIDELES (USA) (19) A P O'Brien (IRE) 8 12 DOUBTFUL 11
18 1 AUTUMN LILY (USA) (10) S Bin Surroor 8 12 W Buick 8
19 2 BUREAU (IRE) (8) M Johnston 9 3 G Lee 17
20 22 INTIMAL (15) (BF) S Bin Surroor 8 12 S De Sousa 12
21 3 TINGA (IRE) (21) M Channon 8 12 M Harley 6

BETTING: 11-4 Bunker, 3-1 Somewhat, 7-1 Friendship, 8-1 Autumn Lily, 10-1 Freedom Square, Intimal, 12-1 Master Carpenter, 20-1 Bureau, Tinga, Berkshire, 25-1 others.

3.05

HARDWICKE STAKES (GROUP 2) (CLASS 1).
£213,300 added 4YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty
Value £120,962.

1 11442 AIKEN (245) CD J Gosden 5 9 W Buick 3
2 2120-2 DANDINO (49) CD M Botti 6 9 L Dettoni 9
3 202-31 EKTHIHAM (IRE) (42) D R Varian 4 9 P Hanagan 4
4 1150-1 MOUNT ATHOS (IRE) (43) D L Cunard 6 9 J P Spencer 5
5 42-341 NOBLE MISSION (28) D Lady Cecil 4 9 T Quigley 1

HAYDOCK

Going: Good to Firm

6.50

RITA ORA HERE ON 9TH AUGUST MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 2YO only 5f
Penalty Value £2,911.

1 ETCRY H Bastian 9 5 J Hart (5) 1
2 FLYING BEAR (IRE) (24) J Gask 9 5 S Drowne 5
3 OVERSTEP (IRE) (9) M Johnston 9 5 L Jones 2
4 60 QUINCEL (30) T Dascombe 9 5 R Kingscote 6
5 000 RED FOREVER (4) A Berry 9 5 S O'Hara (5) 3
6 4 MECCA'S ANGEL (IRE) (39) M Dods 9 0 L Toplis 4

BETTING: 11-10 Mecca's Angel, 3-1 Flying Bear, 9-2 Overstep, 10-1 Quincel, 12-1 Etcry, 16-1 Red Forever.

7.20

LADIES NIGHT HERE 5TH JULY HANDICAP (JOKEY CLUB GRASSROOTS SPRINT SERIES QUALIFIER) (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 3YO PLUS 5f Penalty Value £2,911.

1 051-05 DIMAN WATERS (IRE) (9) (CD) E Alston 6 9 12 J Hart (5) 8
2 001-62 INDIA TRAIL (39) (CD) D Nicholls 3 9 12 Shirley Teasdale (5) 8

SOCIETY Rock won the Diamond Jubilee Stakes in 2011 and while he relinquished his crown last term, he can regain his Royal Ascot title this time around.

James Fanshawe's charge will be lining up in the Group One event for the fourth successive year, having started his run with a fine second to Starspangledbanner in 2010.

He then built on that to create a 25-1 shock in 2011, ploughing through the soft ground to notch a half-length win in what was perhaps a slightly sub-par renewal.

While Society Rock was not disgraced in his efforts subsequently, he failed to hit the same kind of form before returning to Ascot last June to face Australian sensation Black Caviar.

He was only beaten two lengths in fifth that day, but he had forfeited valuable ground with a slow start and while he was flying at the finish, his chance had already gone.

That run showed just how effective Society Rock is at Ascot though, and his subsequent Haydock Sprint Cup win showed his previous triumph to be far from a fluke.

In contrast to last year, Society Rock arrives here on the back of a hard-fought victory in the Duke of York Stakes and is evidently on song at present.

Society Rock has proved himself capable on a range of surfaces from soft to firm and with an unsettled forecast for the end of the week, he is a solid bet to cover all eventualities.

Universal is a tough competitor and can extend his winning streak to four with another victory in the Hardwicke Stakes.

The four-year-old was rated only 79 last August but a good run of results saw him start the current campaign on 101.

After winning off that mark in April, trainer Mark Johnston raised his sights to Group Three company in the John Porter and he duly out-battled Quiz Mistress to gain a narrow verdict.

Opinion caught the eye of many

when taking part in a racecourse gallop with one-time Derby hope Telescopate late last month and should be followed as he returns to action in

Universal then upped another level to win an admittedly weak Group Two at Newmarket last time, turning in another gutsy effort to hold the reopposing Dandino by a neck.

While he will have to improve

again, Universal is firmly on an

upward curve and would not have to

find too much more in what could be

a lacklustre renewal.

Khubala could be worth a small

wager at nice odds in the

Wokingham Handicap, particularly

as Hugo Palmer has secured the services of Frankie Dettori.

A winner at Windsor, Khubala is

nowhere near as exposed as some of

his rivals and gets in on a nice

weight.

Friendship is the choice in the Chesham Stakes as Aidan O'Brien tries to supplement his success in the seven-furlong heat with Maybe two years ago.

Opinion caught the eye of many

when taking part in a racecourse gallop

with one-time Derby hope

Telescopate late last month and should

be followed as he returns to action in

the Duke of Edinburgh Handicap.

The Queen Alexandra Stakes, run over just shy of two miles and six furlongs, closes the meeting and the last laugh can go to the Andrew Balding-trained Chiberta King.

Michael Bell can repeat the 2011 success of Margot Did in the Scottish Sun/EBF Stallions Land O'Burns Fillies' Stakes at Ayr with Riskit Biskit.

She was narrowly denied by Hoofalong at Windsor last time and looks sure to develop into a useful tool given she has had just five starts to date.

Bell can also strike with King Of Jazz in Redcar's H Jarvis 135th Anniversary Handicap while Aetna is the choice in Agribank Handicap at Newmarket.

Evening racing is on offer at Haydock and Lingfield with Response favoured in the Madness Music Night Here 20th July Maiden Stakes on Merseyside, while Saint Helena can turn in another good effort in the Forest Row Handicap at the Surrey track.

Today's runners

3.45

DIAMOND JUBILEE STAKES (BRITISH CHAMPIONS SERIES & GLOBAL SPRINT CHALLENGE) (GROUP 1) (CLASS 1). £500,000 added 3YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value £283,550.

1 040-00

DANDY BOY (ITY) (28) (CD) D Maramane (IRE) 7 9 4 P Dobs 1
2 0-2103 GAMMARTH (FR) (20) (D) H Pantall (FR) 5 9 F Veron 6
3 14-103 GORDON LORD BYRON (IRE) (38) (D) T Hogan (IR) 5 9 4 Buick 4
4 140-15 HAVELOCK (USA) (49) (D) M Miller (USA) 6 9 4 L Dettori 9
5 002-4 REPLY (IRE) (9) (D) (B) P O'Brien (IRE) 4 9 4 J P O'Brien 18
6 343-04 SLADE POWER (IRE) (28) (D) F Nasby (IRE) 5 9 4 L Morris 16
7 2110-3 SLADE POWER (IRE) (28) (D) F Nasby (IRE) 5 9 4 L Morris 16

12 5315-1

SOCIETY ROCK (IRE) (38) (CD) J Fanshawe 6 9 4 K Fallon 8

13 41602 SOUL (AUS) (29) (D) S Bin Surroor 6 9 4 S De Sousa 3

INTENSE PIN (42) (CD) C Wall 4 9 1 S Sanders 14

14 0001-3 MINCE (19) (CD) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

15 111-03 PRODIGALITY (29) (D) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

16 0-0502 SIRE (AUS) (38) (D) John O'Shea (AUS) 5 9 1 R L Moore 20

ZANETTO (28) (D) A Badling 3 8 11 L Kenny 6

17 2-2141 ROSHUU QUEEN (IRE) (63) (D) W Haggas 3 8 8 R Hughes 10

18 111-14 SLADE POWER (IRE) (28) (D) E Lyman (IRE) 4 9 4 W M Lordan 17

19 2-2152 SOUL (AUS) (29) (D) S Bin Surroor 6 9 4 S De Sousa 3

INTENSE PIN (42) (CD) C Wall 4 9 1 S Sanders 14

20 2-2153 MINCE (19) (CD) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

PRODIGALITY (29) (D) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

21 2-2154 SIRE (AUS) (38) (D) John O'Shea (AUS) 5 9 1 R L Moore 20

ZANETTO (28) (D) A Badling 3 8 11 L Kenny 6

22 2-2155 ROSHUU QUEEN (IRE) (63) (D) W Haggas 3 8 8 R Hughes 10

SLADE POWER (IRE) (28) (D) E Lyman (IRE) 4 9 4 W M Lordan 17

23 2-2156 SOUL (AUS) (29) (D) S Bin Surroor 6 9 4 S De Sousa 3

INTENSE PIN (42) (CD) C Wall 4 9 1 S Sanders 14

24 2-2157 MINCE (19) (CD) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

PRODIGALITY (29) (D) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

25 2-2158 SIRE (AUS) (38) (D) John O'Shea (AUS) 5 9 1 R L Moore 20

ZANETTO (28) (D) A Badling 3 8 11 L Kenny 6

26 2-2159 ROSHUU QUEEN (IRE) (63) (D) W Haggas 3 8 8 R Hughes 10

SLADE POWER (IRE) (28) (D) E Lyman (IRE) 4 9 4 W M Lordan 17

27 2-2160 SOUL (AUS) (29) (D) S Bin Surroor 6 9 4 S De Sousa 3

INTENSE PIN (42) (CD) C Wall 4 9 1 S Sanders 14

28 2-2161 MINCE (19) (CD) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

PRODIGALITY (29) (D) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

29 2-2162 SIRE (AUS) (38) (D) John O'Shea (AUS) 5 9 1 R L Moore 20

ZANETTO (28) (D) A Badling 3 8 11 L Kenny 6

30 2-2163 ROSHUU QUEEN (IRE) (63) (D) W Haggas 3 8 8 R Hughes 10

SLADE POWER (IRE) (28) (D) E Lyman (IRE) 4 9 4 W M Lordan 17

31 2-2164 SOUL (AUS) (29) (D) S Bin Surroor 6 9 4 S De Sousa 3

INTENSE PIN (42) (CD) C Wall 4 9 1 S Sanders 14

32 2-2165 MINCE (19) (CD) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

PRODIGALITY (29) (D) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

33 2-2166 SIRE (AUS) (38) (D) John O'Shea (AUS) 5 9 1 R L Moore 20

ZANETTO (28) (D) A Badling 3 8 11 L Kenny 6

34 2-2167 ROSHUU QUEEN (IRE) (63) (D) W Haggas 3 8 8 R Hughes 10

SLADE POWER (IRE) (28) (D) E Lyman (IRE) 4 9 4 W M Lordan 17

35 2-2168 SOUL (AUS) (29) (D) S Bin Surroor 6 9 4 S De Sousa 3

INTENSE PIN (42) (CD) C Wall 4 9 1 S Sanders 14

36 2-2169 MINCE (19) (CD) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

PRODIGALITY (29) (D) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

37 2-2170 SIRE (AUS) (38) (D) John O'Shea (AUS) 5 9 1 R L Moore 20

ZANETTO (28) (D) A Badling 3 8 11 L Kenny 6

38 2-2171 ROSHUU QUEEN (IRE) (63) (D) W Haggas 3 8 8 R Hughes 10

SLADE POWER (IRE) (28) (D) E Lyman (IRE) 4 9 4 W M Lordan 17

39 2-2172 SOUL (AUS) (29) (D) S Bin Surroor 6 9 4 S De Sousa 3

INTENSE PIN (42) (CD) C Wall 4 9 1 S Sanders 14

40 2-2173 MINCE (19) (CD) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

PRODIGALITY (29) (D) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

41 2-2174 SIRE (AUS) (38) (D) John O'Shea (AUS) 5 9 1 R L Moore 20

ZANETTO (28) (D) A Badling 3 8 11 L Kenny 6

42 2-2175 ROSHUU QUEEN (IRE) (63) (D) W Haggas 3 8 8 R Hughes 10

SLADE POWER (IRE) (28) (D) E Lyman (IRE) 4 9 4 W M Lordan 17

43 2-2176 SOUL (AUS) (29) (D) S Bin Surroor 6 9 4 S De Sousa 3

INTENSE PIN (42) (CD) C Wall 4 9 1 S Sanders 14

44 2-2177 MINCE (19) (CD) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

PRODIGALITY (29) (D) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

45 2-2178 SIRE (AUS) (38) (D) John O'Shea (AUS) 5 9 1 R L Moore 20

ZANETTO (28) (D) A Badling 3 8 11 L Kenny 6

46 2-2179 ROSHUU QUEEN (IRE) (63) (D) W Haggas 3 8 8 R Hughes 10

SLADE POWER (IRE) (28) (D) E Lyman (IRE) 4 9 4 W M Lordan 17

47 2-2180 SOUL (AUS) (29) (D) S Bin Surroor 6 9 4 S De Sousa 3

INTENSE PIN (42) (CD) C Wall 4 9 1 S Sanders 14

48 2-2181 MINCE (19) (CD) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

PRODIGALITY (29) (D) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

49 2-2182 SIRE (AUS) (38) (D) John O'Shea (AUS) 5 9 1 R L Moore 20

ZANETTO (28) (D) A Badling 3 8 11 L Kenny 6

50 2-2183 ROSHUU QUEEN (IRE) (63) (D) W Haggas 3 8 8 R Hughes 10

SLADE POWER (IRE) (28) (D) E Lyman (IRE) 4 9 4 W M Lordan 17

51 2-2184 SOUL (AUS) (29) (D) S Bin Surroor 6 9 4 S De Sousa 3

INTENSE PIN (42) (CD) C Wall 4 9 1 S Sanders 14

52 2-2185 MINCE (19) (CD) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

PRODIGALITY (29) (D) (B) R Charlton 4 9 1 D Pownall 14

53 2-2186 SIRE (AUS) (38) (D) John O'Shea (AUS) 5 9 1 R L Moore 20

ZANETTO (28) (D) A Badling 3 8 11 L Kenny 6

Horse Racing

TODAY'S SELECTIONS

ROYAL ASCOT: 2.30 Friendship, 3.05 Universal, 3.45 SOCIETY ROCK (NAP), 4.25 Khubala, 5.00 Opinion, 5.35 Chiberta King. **AYR:** 2.25 Midnight Dynamo, 3.00 Riskit Fora Biskit, 3.35 Off Art, 4.15 Norse Blues, 4.50 Queen Catrine, 5.25 Algar Lad, 6.00 Christmas Light.

DOWN ROYAL: 2.20 Banne, 2.55 Keyword, 3.30 Auden, 4.00 Show Court, 4.35 Salhooza, 5.10 Truly Genius, 5.45 half Moon.

HAYDOCK: 6.50 Mecca's Angel, 7.20 Baby Queen, 7.50 Copperwood, 8.20 Polar Chief, 8.50 Response, 9.20 Livia's Dream.

LINGFIELD: 6.05 Ifrika, 6.35 Decent Fella, 7.05 Abated, 7.35 Jarrow, 8.05 Helamis, 8.35 Saint Helena, 9.05 Salient.

NEWMARKET: 2.15 Outstrip, 2.50 Whipper Snapper, 3.25 Ribbons, 4.05 Aetna, 4.40 Top Joker, 5.15 Trojan Rocket, 5.50 Passion Play.

REDCAR: 2.05 Chinese Jade, 2.40 Maska Pony, 3.15 King Of Jazz, 3.55 Tumblewind, 4.30 Dual Mac, 5.05 Adiator, 5.40 Chloe's Dream, 6.10 Miss Mysterious.

DOUBLE: Society Rock and Opinion.

LINGFIELD

Going: Firm-Good to Firm in places; AW: Standard

6.05

VINES BMW MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £2,045.

1	600	COTTON CLUB (IRE) B Millman 9 1	A Kirby 4
2	42	DOUBLE POINT (IRE) (11) P Cole 9 1	L Morris 5
3	0	BRIGHT SOCIETY (IRE) (11) J S Moore 8 11	Charlotte Jenner (7) 9
4	54	ZAMBZEASY P Hide 8 11	D J O'Donohoe 7
5	42232	COCKNEY BOB (4) J S Moore 8 9	Cathy Gannon 1
6		CRICKLEWOOD GREEN (USA) R Hanlon 8 9	K O'Neill 6
7		IFRIKA C Britain 8 7	R Powell (3) 8
8	50	CHANCE OF ROMANCE (IRE) (29) C Cox 8 6	John Fahy 2
9		INDIE STAR H Dunlop 8 5	K Fox 10

BETTING: 2-1 Double Point, 9-4 Cockney Bob, 5-1 Cricklewood Green, 10-1 Plucky Dip, Ifrika, 12-1 Cotton Club, 16-1 Indie Star, 25-1 Chance of Romance, 33-1 others.

6.35

STUART WALTON BIRTHDAY HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 4YO PLUS 1m Penalty Value £2,727.

1	-00000	CHISWICK BEY (IRE) (35) N Quinlan 9 7	A Kirby 7
2	1201-0	EAGER TO BOW (IRE) (11) (C) P Channings 7 9 6	G Baker 4
3	0-0360	HALLING DANCER (17) (D) L Carter 4 9 3	K Fox 10
4	0-6000	SHIFTING STAR (IRE) (10) J Bridger 9 9 3	K O'Neill 8
5	60-071	DARNATHANE (15) (C) D P Darcy 4 9 2	J McDonald 3
6	500-0	MY LEARNED FRIEND (IRE) (11) (C) A Balding 9 9 2	P Cosgrave 6
7	311-00	DANAS PRESENT (24) (D) G Baker 4 9 1	R Horney (7) 9
8	0-0563	DECENT FELLA (IRE) (39) J Violet Jordan 7 8 12	M Harley 5
9	0-0365	MENELIK (IRE) (23) (B) T Dascombe 4 8 7	L Morris 2
10	302054	WARBOND (D) M Madwick 5 8 2	Cathy Gannon 1

BETTING: 7-4 Damathane, 4-1 Decent Fella, 5-1 Menelik, 7-1 Eager To Bow, 12-1 Danna's Present, 14-1 Chiswick Bey, 16-1 Warbond, My Learned Friend, Halling Dancer, 25-1 Shifting Star.

7.05

CRANBROOK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 3YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value £2,727.

1	600	PURFORD GREEN (64) M Attwater 4 9 7	S Sanders 6
2	0-2	MERIDIUS (IRE) (11) W G Harrison 3 9 5	M Harley 3
3	3-3030	MILLERS WHARF (IRE) (9) (B) R Hannan 3 9 5	W Twiston-Davies
4	62-4	ABATED (61) (B) P Charlton 3 9 0	J Doyle 4
5	5-	GOLDEN SECRET (267) C Cox 3 9 0	A Kirby 5
6	503-06	POTTIN (19) H Dunlop 3 9 0	L Morris 1

BETTING: 9-4 Abated, 11-4 Millers Wharf, 10-3 Meridus, 5-1 Pottin, 7-1 Golden Secret, 33-1 Purfond Green.

7.35

ST SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 3YO PLUS 5f Penalty Value £2,727.

1	4310-5	HOWYAOINGNOTOBAD (IRE) (50) (D) Miss K George 5 9 12	L Morris 2
2	310060	BUBBLY BALLERINA (14) (CD) A Bailey 4 9 11	A Kirby 7
3	-00046	JARROW (IRE) (7) (C) D Bradley 6 9 10	S Sanders 3
4	4-302041	DORBACK (2) (D) Viot Jordan 6 10 2(6ex)	M Harley 5
5	034050	GUNG HO JACK (14) J Best 4 9 5	J Doyle 6
6	600-00	BEST BE CAREFUL (IRE) (16) (D) M Usner 9 5	L Kenny 4
7	625050	WELEASE BWIAN (IRE) (7) S C Williams 4 8 12 James McDonald	

BETTING: 5-2 Dorback, 4-1 Welease Bwian, 9-2 Jarrow, 6-1 Howyaoingnotobad, 7-1 Best Be Careful, 8-1 Gung Ho Jack, Bubbly Ballerina, 20-1 Multitask.

8.05

PAYNE & CO. OXTED SELLING STAKES (AWT) (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 3YO only 1m 4f Penalty Value £2,045.

1	-50510	BRICK RISING (30) (D) A Balding 9 3	Cathy Gannon 8
2	423310	CHIEF MONOLITH (D) P Phelan 8 12	I Mongan 5
3	25-453	INESSA ARMAND (IRE) (54) (D) J S Moore 8 12	L Kenny 7
4	5-0540	SPANISH ART (2) Miss G Kelleway 8 12	L Morris 4
5	05-40	DARK JUSTICE (IRE) (39) T Pitt 8	D Egan (3) 3

BETTING: 3-1 Dorback, 4-1 Welease Bwian, 9-2 Jarrow, 6-1 Howyaoingnotobad, 7-1 Best Be Careful, 8-1 Gung Ho Jack, Bubbly Ballerina, 20-1 Multitask.

8.35

FOREST ROW HANDICAP (AWT) (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 4YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty Value £2,727.

1	500360	AJEEB (USA) (66) M Sudambar 5 9 7	W Twiston-Davies (5) 4
2	3-0511	FOXHAVEN (31) (C) P Channings 11 9 6	G Baker 2
3	2-0202	CANNA (IRE) (542) Miss A Brewer 5 9 4	M Harley 1
4	54-0	PROUD TIMES (USA) (447) D Miss A Brewer 7 9	A Kirby 8
5	-33132	SAINT HELENA (IRE) (19) (D) H Dunlop 5 9 2	J Doyle 6
6	460041	STANDPOINT (7) (C) C Dove 7 9	Hayley Turner 5
7	3004/1	CORNISH BEAU (11) (CD) R Newland 6 8 6	L Morris 7
8	432500	TOTAL OBSESSION (11) (C) M Head 6 8 2	N Garbutt (7) 3

BETTING: 5-2 Cornish Beau, 3-1 Standpoint, Foxhaven, 9-2 Saint Helena, 14-1 Cannon, 20-1 Proud Times, Ajeeb, 25-1 Total Obsession.

9.05

HIGHURST HANDICAP (AWT) (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 4YO PLUS 1m 2f Penalty Value £2,045.

1	0000-3	HECTOR'S CHANCE (17) Mrs H Main 4 9 7	G Baker 7
2	5306-4	OPERA BUFF (29) F Brennan 4 9 7	Renato Souza 6
3	601300	SCAMPERDINE (26) (CD) P Baugh 11 9 6	K Fox 9
4	0-2402	GRAND THEFT EQUINE (30) J Doyle 5 9 5	P Cosgrave 11
5	22-3002	DEADERICK ART (23) (D) S Durack 5 9 5	W Twiston-Davies
6	416-00	RUSSIAN STORM (14) (D) A Bailey 6	M Dwyer 12
7	612-0	BIT WINDY (10) (D) A Bailey 6	J McDonald 3
8	7-6120	MEGALAKA (IRE) (59) (B) P Phelan 5 9 2	K O'Neill 8
9	006113	SALIENT (11) (D) M Attender 9 8 11	S Sanders 2
10	000-02	LADY BARASTAR (IRE) (11) Mrs A Perrett 5 8 7	L Morris 1
11	56435	BIT WINDY (10) (D) C Dove 4 8 3	Hayley Turner 10
12	0-0428	CHIK'S DREAM (58) D Haydon Jones 6 8 2	Rosie Jessop (5) 12
13	464304	DOLLY COLMAN (IRE) (10) Miss Z Davison 5 8 2	Cathy Gannon 4
14	421-2	BOBWOOD (IRE) (J767) (C) Mrs A Batchelor 10 8 2	D O'Neill 3

BETTING: 10-3 Salient, 5-1 Lady Barastar, 7-1 Hector's Chance, 10-1 Dolly Colman, Boddily, Chik's Dream, Bit Windy, 12-1 Derenna Art, Russian Storm, 16-1 others.

NEWMARKET

Going: Good to Firm

2.15 HOUSE COLLECTION E.B.F. MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 4). £7,000 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £4,528.

BETTING: 5-2 Veeraya, 5-1 Liberty Jack, 6-1 Whopper Snapper, 7-1 Al Udeid, 10-1 Dashing David, Dance With Dragons, Bold Prediction, 14-1 others.

2.50 POETS HOUSE HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 3YO only 7f Penalty Value £5,175.

BETTING: 11-4 Showpiece, 6-1 Outstrip, 7-1 Gilbey's Mate, 8-1 Haayil, 10-1 Iconic Artist, Rainbow Rock, 12-1 Sudden Wonder, Anakaya, True Story, Maxie T, 16-1 others.

4.05 AGIBANK HANDICAP (CLASS 2). £20,000 added 3YO only 5f Penalty Value £12,450.

BETTING: 2-1 Zeyran, 11-4 Ribbons, 7-2 Snow Rose, 7-1 It's My Time, 15-2 Keep The Secret, 16-1 Macchiarra.

4.05 AGIBANK HANDICAP (CLASS 2). £20,000 added 3YO only 5f Penalty Value £12,450.

BETTING: 2-1 Zeyran, 11-4 Ribbons, 7-2 Snow Rose, 7-1 It's My Time, 15-2 Keep The Secret, 16-1 Macchiarra.

REDCAR TEESIDE HOSPICE FASHION SHOW HANDICAP (DIV 1) (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 4YO PLUS 1m 6f Penalty Value £1,941.

BETTING: 2-1 Blue Atlantic, 5-2 Al Baz, 5-1 George The First, 6-1 Irondale Studs, 12-1 Street Boss, 14-1 Chinese Jade, Frost In May, 33-1 Champagne Rules.

2.40 TEESIDE HOSPICE FASHION SHOW HANDICAP (DIV 1) (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 4YO PLUS 1m 6f Penalty Value £1,941.

BETTING: 2-1 Sally Friday, 11-4 Madrasa, 5-1 Maska Pony, 8-1 Brunello, 12-1 Amir Pasha, 14-1 Tenacity, 16-1 Sheila's Castle, 20-1 Joyful Motive, 25-1 others.

3.15 H JARVIS 135TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP (CLASS 3). £11,500 added 4YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £7,439.

BETTING: 2-1 Galician, 10-1 D J Manton 4 9 7

3.15 H JARVIS 135TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP (CLASS 3). £11,500 added 4YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £7,439.

BETTING: 2-1 Galician, 10-1 D J Manton 4 9 7

3.55 TEC4M BUILDING THE FUTURE HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 3YO only 5f Penalty Value £5,175.

BETTING: 2-1 Bapak Sayang, 5-1 Almalekah, 11-2 Tumblewind, 6-1 Boxing Shadows, 7-1 Angus Og, 10-1 Bognog, 14-1 Blue Lotus, 16-1 Lady Poppy, 20-1 Mitchell.

3.55 TEC4M BUILDING THE FUTURE HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 3YO only 5f Penalty Value £5,175.

BETTING: 2-1 Bapak Sayang, 5-1 Almalekah, 11-2 Tumblewind, 6-1 Boxing Shadows, 7-1 Angus Og, 10-1 Bognog, 14-1 Blue Lotus, 16-1 Lady Poppy, 20-1 Mitchell.

4.30 LITCHFIELD GROUP SHEERFRAME CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £2,588.

BETTING: 1-3 DUAL MAC (10) N Bcroft 6 9 11

4.30 LITCHFIELD GROUP SHEERFRAME CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £2,588.

BETTING: 1-3 DUAL MAC (10) N Bcroft 6 9 11

5.05 CAPTURE LE COEUR PHOTOGRAPHY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 3 to 5YO 6f Penalty Value £2,588.

BETTING: 1-3 BENIDORM (29) N Bcroft 5 9 12

5.05 CAPTURE LE COEUR PHOTOGRAPHY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 3 to 5YO 6f Penalty Value £2,588.

BETTING: 1-3 BENIDORM (29) N Bcroft 5 9 12

5.40 LADIES AND GENTS EVENING, 24TH AUGUST HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 3YO only 5f Penalty Value £2,045.

BETTING: 1-10 PERFECT WORDS (IRE) (10) Mrs M File 9 9

5.40 LADIES AND GENTS EVENING, 24TH AUGUST HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 3YO only 5f Penalty Value £2,045.

BETTING: 1-10 PERFECT WORDS (IRE) (10) Mrs M File 9 9

5.40 LADIES AND GENTS EVENING, 24TH AUGUST HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 3YO only 5f Penalty Value £2,045.

BETTING: 1-10 PERFECT WORDS (IRE) (10) Mrs M File 9 9

5.40 LADIES AND GENTS EVENING, 24TH AUGUST HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 3YO only 5f Penalty Value £2,045.

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Tour's new favourite..

SIR BRADLEY Wiggins has hinted he may never ride the Tour de France again as he appeared to cede Team Sky's leadership battle to Chris Froome.

Wiggins will not defend his Tour title this summer after a suffering a knee injury in the wake of the chest infection which ended his Giro d'Italia hopes.

That has cleared the road for Froome, 28, to go into this year's Tour as Team Sky's unquestioned leader and the clear favourite to win the race, while the 33-year-old Wiggins turns his attentions elsewhere.

TOUR FAVOURITES

CHRIS FROOME: Age: 28 Team: Team Sky Previous Appearances (finishes): 2008 (84th), 2012 (2nd), Stage wins: One (2012: stage seven)

While serving as Bradley Wiggins' chief domestique last year, Froome showed flashes of the form which would make him a contender, attacking on stage 11 before being told to wait for his team leader. He arrives at the Tour full of confidence after dominating the early part of the 2013 season.

ALBERTO CONTADOR: Age: 30.

Team: Saxo-Tinkoff. Previous Appearances (finishes): 2007 (1st), 2009 (1st), 2010 (1st), 2011 (5th).

Stage wins: Three

(2007: stage 14; 2009: stages 15 and 18) The double winner, stripped of the third title he won in 2010 and his fifth place in 2011, is back from a doping suspension and hoping to recapture the form which saw him dominate previous Grand Tours. Although recent results have been uninspiring, the Spaniard can never be counted out.

RICHIE PORTE

Age: 28. Team: Team Sky. Previous Appearances (finishes): 2011 (120th), 2012 (34th). Stage wins: None

Although he heads to France very much in a support role, should anything happen to Froome along the way Porte would be elevated to the role of Team Sky's leader. Froome has made it clear he would like to help the Tasmanian to a podium place in the same way he finished second to Wiggins last year.

JOAQUIM RODRIGUEZ

Age: 34. Team: Katusha. Previous Appearances (finishes): 2010 (7th) Stage wins: One (2010: stage 12)

Hardly a regular on the Tour de France, the veteran Spanish climber more often seen in the Giro d'Italia and Vuelta a Espana is part of the conversation this year thanks to the mountainous course which suits his powerful style.

CADEL EVANS

Age: 36. Team: BMC Racing. Previous appearances (finishes): 2005 (8th), 2009 (4th), 2007 (2nd), 2008 (2nd), 2009 (30th), 2010 (26th), 2011 (1st), 2012 (7th).

As defending champion last year, Evans challenged Wiggins early in the second week but could not keep pace with Team Sky and eventually fell down the standings after suffering an illness. With his younger team-mate Tejay Van Garderen also tipped, Evans must start well to retain control of BMC.

TEJAY VAN GARDEREN

Age: 24 Team: BMC Racing. Previous Appearances (finishes): 2011 (82nd), 2012 (5th).

Although he began last year's race in a support role to Evans, Van Garderen attacked as the Australian struggled on the steep stage 11 to La Toussuire and soon took over control of BMC's challenge before achieving a surprise fifth-place finish ahead of his team-mate.

Primary Schools Athletics Championships ...



MAXIMUM EFFORT: The boys' 150 metres.

Pic no: 16569586



RALLYING CALL: Come on the team.

Pic no: 16569463



PERFECT RACE: Bethanie Goodwin, 11, of Bitterne Manor Primary School, third at the bell, below, comes through to win the Girls' 1,000 metres.

Pic nos: 16569472, left, and 16569450, below.



SETTING THE PACE: The Boys' 600 metres.

Pic no: 16569479



TRIUMPH:

Liam Higgins, 10, of Townhill School, celebrates winning the boys' 1,000 metres, above and right.

Pic nos: 16569429 and 16569436



Winners!

PUPILS from all over the area had a great time at the annual Primary Schools Championships but, for Millbrook's Newlands Primary School, it was a particularly sweet day. They topped the ten schools taking part in the boys' events and also won overall on points. Bassett Green Primary won the girls section.



TEAMWORK: Competitors from Newlands Primary School, right, and Bitterne Manor Primary School, above. Pic nos: 16569505 (right) and 16569519



SEND IN YOURPICTURES TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Primary Schools Athletics Championships ...



FULL STRETCH: In descending order, Sofiah Baharim, 9, of Bassett Green Primary, Charlie Skeats, 9, of Bitterne Manor and Arwen Patricio, 9, of Fairisle Junior in the Year 3 and 4 girls' long jump. Pic nos: 16569374, 16569353 and 16569363.



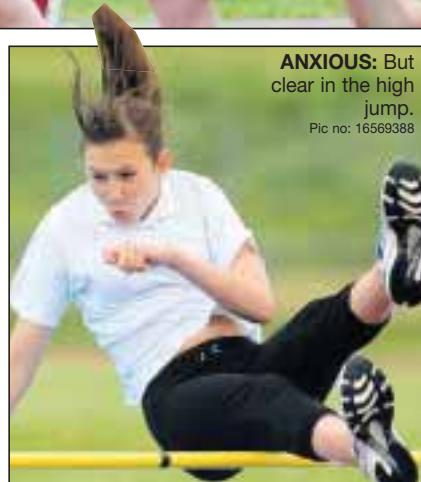
Pictures by Chris Moorhouse



FOCUSED: The girls' 60 metre start. Pic no: 16569629



STORMING THROUGH: The Girls' 60 metres. Pic no: 16569559



ANXIOUS: But clear in the high jump. Pic no: 16569388



UP AND RUNNING: The girls' 60 metre start, right. Pic no: 16569604



DETERMINATION: Sophie Murray-Jones, 9, of Bitterne C of E Junior School, above left, throws the rounders ball. Left: the boys' 1,000m race. Pic nos: 16569658 and 16569396.

Above: Plenty of vocal support for the young athletes. Pic no: 16569571

Right: Dipping for the tape in the boys' 60 metres. Pic no: 16569540



DOMESTIQUE: THE REAL LIFE UPS AND DOWNS OF A TOUR PRO

By Charley Wegelius

Sportsbookofthemonth.com price: £9.78, saving 42% on rrp

EVERY team sport needs its water carriers – the guys who can be relied upon to do the heavy shifting, complete the hard miles.

Rugby's front row forwards, football's no-nonsense defenders and cycling's domestiques fall into this category. Dependable, hard-working characters who never let the side down and have no desire to feature in the sport's spotlight; most are content simply to compete as professional sportsmen and women.

A decade ago, William Fotheringham wrote *Put Me Back on My Bike*, an acclaimed biography of Tom Simpson, the Briton who died on Mont Ventoux during the 1967 Tour de France. As a youngster, Simpson travelled to France hoping to become a professional rider and succeeded in becoming a star. By contrast, Charley Wegelius, a 17-year-old from York, made the same journey and became a respected domestique.

One of the few occasions this outstanding book gets anywhere near glamorous is when Wegelius is recruited by and signs his first professional contract with the Italian Mapai team, then the world's best. Fortunately, he was clever enough to appreciate that to succeed as the team's newcomer, he must be prepared to get his hands dirty.

A friend, congratulating him on clinching his inaugural contract, added that, "loads of people get in [to pro cycling], but not many people get to stay." It was advice Wegelius clearly took to heart for he remained a domestique for 11 hard years between 2000-2011.

These, he maintains, were turbulent times for cycling, replete with scandals, drug raids, confessions and accusations, a period when a "doping culture [was] deeply embedded within the sport", but Wegelius prefers to focus on life as a foot soldier.

The result is a genuinely fascinating, behind-the-scenes look at life as a professional rider. There's little room for glitz, regular TV appearances, or what might be called sport's sparkle in the domestique's world. As Wegelius acknowledges, he was employed to "ride through pain so strong, it's like holding your hand in a flame."

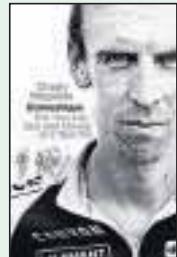
Domestique is a gritty examination of a sporting life away from the spotlight, an account which proves that water carriers are a pivotal part of every team sport.

QUIZ QUESTION:

We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of Domestique to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website (sportsbookofthemonth.com) and answer the following question:

This year, which is the longer race - the Tour de France or the Giro d'Italia?



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Youth Sport Special

Winchester City Penguin Swimming Club annual primary school gala



ALL SMILES: Swimmers and special guests on the pool side.

MORE than 300 children from 25 local primary schools took part in Winchester City Penguin Swimming Club's annual gala.

The event, now in its 13th year, was held at River Park Leisure Centre and was sponsored by bulthaup Winchester, the University of Winchester and supported by Sainsbury's.

The emphasis of the swimming gala was about having fun in the water and gave many of the pupils their first taste of competitive swimming.

Year 4 children took part in 25m freestyle races, while those in Years 5 and 6 competed in medley and freestyle relay events. Teams that didn't make the finals took part in an invitational float race.

Awards were presented by the Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Cllr E Jeffs and his wife Barbara Jeffes, Steve Brine MP and representatives from Winchester City Council and the event sponsors.

RESULTS

Year 4 boys: 1 William Hatfield (Otterbourne Primary School), 2 Jacques Du Plessis (All Saints Primary School), 3



CELEBRATING IN THE RELAY Order no: 16549614



CELEBRATING IN THE RELAY Order no: 16549614

Daily Echo picture by Paul Collins Order no: 16549632

Daniel Morgan (Bishop's Waltham Junior School).

Year 4 girls: 1 Iona Morley (St Swithun's Junior School), 2 Ayla Francis (Twyford St Mary's Primary School), 3 Katie Baxter (St Swithun's Junior School).

Boys mixed stroke relay final: 1 Twyford Preparatory School, 2 Pilgrims School, 3 Western Primary School.

Girls mixed stroke relay final: 1 St Swithun's Junior School, 2 Prince's Mead School, 3 Bishop's Waltham Junior School.

Boys freestyle relay final: 1 Twyford

Preparatory School, 2 Pilgrims School, 3 Western Primary School.

Girls freestyle relay final: 1 Prince's Mead School, 2 Bishop's Waltham Junior School, 3 St Swithun's Junior School.

Boys invitational relay final: 1 King's Somborne Primary School, 2 Scantabout Primary School, 3 South Wonston Primary School.

Girls invitational relay final: 1 Owslebury Primary School, 2 Twyford St Mary's Primary School, 3 Harestock Primary School.

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Youth Sport Special

Winchester City Penguin Swimming Club annual primary school gala



THE INVITATIONAL RELAY

Order no: 16549607



CHANGEOVER IN THE INVITATIONAL RELAY

Order no: 16549590



CHANGEOVER: The boys' relay final. Order no: 16549625



Order no: 16549603

ABOVE: Pupils cheer on their school mates.
Order no: 16549593LEFT: The invitational relay.
Order no: 16549596

LINE UP: Boys' mixed stroke relay teams.



PRINCE'S MEAD SCHOOL: Girls' freestyle relay winners.



CHEERING ON TEAMMATES Order no: 16549611

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ENGLAND HAVE OPTIONS - JOS



JOS Buttler sees Kevin Pietersen's injury-enforced absence from England's successful Champions Trophy campaign to date as a heartening demonstration of their collective talent.

Alastair Cook's team are within one more victory – over World Cup holders India in tomorrow's Edgbaston final – of delivering England's long-overdue first one-day international tournament trophy.

For wicketkeeper Buttler, who took a world record-equalling six catches in Wednesday's convincing semi-final win against under-performing South Africa, it speaks volumes for Cook's team that they have put themselves on the verge of history – without Pietersen's mercurial batsmanship.

"That would say a lot about the depth in English cricket," he said. "The top order have done very well."

Former Hampshire star Pietersen has been unavailable to England since March, after injuring his knee in New Zealand, and has played no cricket at all in the intervening months.

He made his comeback for Surrey yesterday, and has also been named in England's Twenty20 squad to face the Kiwis next week – before his anticipated Test return in time for the start of the Ashes next month.

In the meantime, others have excelled.

"Trotty (Jonathan Trott) has been very consistent," Buttler said.

"Joe Root's meteoric rise in international cricket continues – and looking ahead, it is brilliant for England to have those options."

It is encouraging too, Buttler confirms, to have the prospect of Pietersen taking part on his home ground against New Zealand in the second of two Twenty20s – as long as he first comes



JOS BUTTLER

COMEBACK:
Kevin
Pietersen.



through unscathed in Surrey's LV= County Championship match against Yorkshire.

"Having KP back raises the temperature for those games a little bit," Buttler added.

"T20 is a lot of fun and it will be a good spectacle."

"Any time KP pulls on an England shirt it brings a lot of attention and excitement for everyone, and it will be great to be a part of it."

Before then, Buttler is hoping to help his country finally claim some global 50-over silverware.

He was a teenager the last time England came close, in the 2004 final of the Champions Trophy at The Oval – where Marcus Trescothick made a century but then Michael Vaughan's team could not defend 217 against West Indies.

"I remember watching it," he said.

"Tres got a hundred in the final – and the West Indies got over the line, eight or nine down."

This time, Buttler himself can have a say in what happens.

"Looking ahead, it's great to think I'm going to be a part of it – and I'm really excited about it."

"If we perform as well as we did against South Africa and as well as we can do then we've got a great chance."

"The past is the past, and we can't change anything about it. So there is no point worrying about it."

"This is a great chance to right those wrongs."

● The role of director of football within the English game is once again under the spotlight following Joe Kinnear's appointment at Newcastle.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at five examples of how the relationship between manager and director of football can go wrong.

NEWCASTLE: KEVIN KEEGAN AND DENNIS WISE

Officially titled executive director (football), Wise joined Newcastle in January 2008 following Mike Ashley's purchase of the club the summer before. Kevin Keegan had previously expressed his dislike for the notion of a director of football. Eight months later the former England manager resigned, clearly annoyed at not having full control of transfers. He said: "It's my opinion that a manager must have the right to manage and that clubs should not impose upon any manager any player that he does not want." Keegan won £2million after successfully suing Ashley four years ago. An independent arbitration panel decided that removing control of transfer policy from Keegan's remit and handing it to Wise, amounted to constructive dismissal.

TOTTENHAM: MARTIN JOL AND DAMIEN COMOLLI

Jol lifted the lid on his fractious relationship with Comolli in 2007 shortly after his exit from Spurs. The Dutchman claimed Comolli bought several players without consulting him, leaving the team "unbalanced". Spurs officials were pictured in Seville in October 2007 and shortly after Jol was replaced by Juande Ramos.

CHELSEA: JOSE MOURINHO AND AVRAM GRANT

Mourinho's power at Stamford Bridge was diluted by the appointment of Grant as director of football in July 2007. Mourinho made no secret of his unhappiness at Grant's arrival and two months later left Chelsea by "mutual consent" after a summer of frustration in the transfer market.

REAL MADRID: JOSE MOURINHO AND JORGE VALDANO

Mourinho's frustrations of working within a continental structure continued at Real Madrid where he was repeatedly at odds with Valdano during his first year in charge. The pair clashed over transfer targets and Mourinho also hit out at Valdano after the Argentinian questioned his decision to keep Karim Benzema on the bench. Mourinho won the power struggle between the two, with Valdano leaving the club.

VALENCIA: RAFAEL BENITEZ AND JESUS PITARCH

After winning the Primera Division and reaching the quarter-finals of the Champions League in his first two seasons in charge, Benitez was flying high at Valencia, but he was baffled by the club's decision to buy winger Nestor Canobbio in the summer of 2003 when he wanted a striker. An outraged Benitez said: "I asked for a sofa and they bought me a standard lamp."

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